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TRAVELS

IN THE

CRIMEA.

A

HISTORY

OF THE

EMBASSY FROM PETERSBURG TO CONSTANTINOPLE,

IN 1793.

INCLUDING

THEIR JOURNEY

THROUGH

Krementschuck, Oczakow, Walachia, and Moldavia;

WITH

THEIR RECEPTION AT THE COURT OF SELIM THE THIRD.

BY A SECRETARY TO THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY.

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PREFACE.

THE narrative of the following Travels was not originally intended for the press. It was written at first purely as a homage at the shrine of friendship; but many of those persons for whose private amusement it was destined, as well as others distinguished for their science and information, having pronounced the manuscript to be both interesting and instructive, their judgment has had sufficient weight with the writer to induce him to present his observations to the public at large.

Though the rapidity with which the traveller proceeded, permitted him to cast only a transient view upon the different objects worthy of remark which offered themselves to his attention, yet the historian, the geographer, and the statistical observer, will perhaps

find some scattered hints in these pages, which they will deem not unworthy to be registered and remembred.

The most interesting parts of the narrative will no doubt be found to be the journey of the writer across the Crimea, and the minute and ample account of the expedition of the famous embassy from Petersburg to Constantinople, as well as of its residence in the capital of the Turkish empire, in 1793. The public as yet knows nothing, or knows very little, respecting the interesting route of this deputation through a considerable part of Europe; a part hitherto almost unfrequented, and respecting which we have scarcely any authentic information; while the voyage of lord Macartney to Pekin and the other provinces of China, has been detailed with emphasis, published with splendour, and is in the hands of all the world.

This Russian embassy, composed of a train of nearly seven hundred persons, and which

presented a spectacle of truly Asiatic luxury, consisted, strictly speaking, of a single caravan. A detachment of infantry and cavalry opened and closed their march; they advanced by very slow stages; every evening an encampment was formed according to all the rules of the military art; and every third day was devoted to relaxation and rest. It was not till the sixth month after they left Petersburg that they arrived at Constantinople, and their ceremonial entry was in an uncommon degree memorable and brilliant. All the curiosities of this ancient metropolis were exposed to the view of the ambassador and the principal persons of his suite, by the express orders of the grand-signior; and the author of the following sheets exerted as much vigilance as eagerness, to keep an ample and exact journal of every thing he saw.

The author begs to be allowed to apologise for the apparent sterility which he fears some

of his readers will impute to some portions of his narrative; particularly when his route lay across deserts and uncivilised countries. But how was this defect to be avoided? He knew little or nothing of the language of these countries; and, if he had been better qualified in this respect, the population was so scanty, that little was the information he would have gained. Yet even where his researches have been least effectual, he trusts that he has collected some valuable materials for the geographer, as well as some useful hints for such persons as shall have occasion to travel in this part of the globe. The navigator whose journal presents us with no more than the variations of the wind, the changes of the weather, and the successive appearances of rocks and shores, is yet entitled to the gratitude of mankind, as having added his portion to the magazine of science, and extended our acquaintance with the planet we inhabit.

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TRAVELS,

&c. &c.

CHAP. I.

Journey from Vienna to Jassy.

MY journey from Vienna to Jassy was performed with so much rapidity, as to afford me very little opportunity of observing any thing more, as I passed through Moravia, Gallicia, and Moldavia, than the sites of different countries, meagre villages, and post-houses, the masters of which did not appear to be more at their ease than their neighbours. I quitted Vienna on the 30th of August, and directed my route towards Bielicz; passing through Brunn, Olmutz, and Teschen; the last of which towns had lately been destroyed by fire, but was already rebuilt. In Gallicia I observed a great number of Jews, who all wear a sort of long robe made

of black stuff, which, together with a large hat flapped at the sides, gives them a very remarkable appearance. At every stage my carriage was surrounded by them, for the purpose either of offering their commodities for sale, or inviting me to lodge at their houses; for in this country, as well as in Poland, almost all the inns and post-houses are kept by Jews. The excessive filthiness of their persons was very unalluring, and I declined their invitations.

The road leading to Lemberg had just been almost entirely new made, and is here and there interspersed with bridges and dikes, constructed with considerable skill and solidity. The lower side of the road is bordered with a continued line of trees, which greatly embellish it. I observed that it is kept in excellent repair, and is convenient for travelling, with the exception of a certain extent of road in the environs of Lemberg, where the depth of the sand is so considerable, and rendered our pace so very slow and tiresome, that I was under the necessity of increasing the number of horses to my carriage.

The parts of Gallicia I passed through presented very few points of view that were agreeable. The face of the country is in general too flat and woody to allow of my discovering a single prospect capable of exciting the least pleasure.

After travelling six days, I arrived, much fatigued, on the 4th of September at Lemberg, the capital of Gallicia, ninety-eight miles distant from Vienna. On the following day I went on to Ezernowicz, capital of the Bukovine; a city built in the most modern taste, and the aspect of which is very pleasing.

The first place that fell in my way, called Hertz, in Moldavia, afforded me a very singular and novel species of gratification. On entering the town, it happened that a considerable fair was holding in it, and I was not a little surprised to see on each side of the principal street a long range of booths and stalls, filled with all sorts of provisions, articles useful to travellers, stuffs, broadcloths, and an infinity of other merchandise, the prices of which were very moderate. The post-house of this place,

as well as all those in Moldavia, which are kept by Russians, is a miserable cottage, situated at the extremity of the town. I was no sooner arrived than I was told I should be obliged to wait till the following day for fresh horses, there being then none to be had at the post-house. After reflecting a little upon the best probable means of extricating myself from this difficulty, I desired to be conducted to the house of the *boyard**, or lord of the place, of whom I demanded an audience; but *his excellency* happening just then to be performing his *ciesta* †, none of his servants would venture to take upon themselves the task of awakening him; so I was obliged to wait at his house till nature herself thought proper to befriend me. I observed nothing in the construction of his house different from others of the place, but that his roof of thatch projected considerably, and was supported

* This name of *boyards*, *bojares*, or *bojards*, is given in general to men of rank in Russia. They enjoy very high consideration, though it does not appear that they are much concerned in the government of their country.

† Afternoon sleep.

by pillars. The boyard being at length awake, I soon obtained the solicited interview for myself and my interpreter.

He was a young man with a fine countenance, seated on a sofa, with his legs crossed in the eastern manner.

After receiving me with the most perfect politeness, and listening with great attention to the request I made him to give directions for my being accommodated with sufficient horses to continue my journey, he ordered me six, which were instantly harnessed and put to my carriage: the expense of them was but two florins, though they conducted me eight miles, and I had nothing to do but to congratulate myself on the celerity of our pace. My postillions reached the end of the stage in about four or five hours. In this country, as well as in Russia, they do not feed their horses in stables; they let them graze in herds, and at liberty, in the fields and plains; and when any are wanted for the carriages of strangers, the number required are accordingly caught and harnessed. These animals go very well on even ground, but exclama-

tions and the whip are absolutely necessary to make them ascend the mountains.

The great scarcity of water fit for drinking is a very disagreeable circumstance, which occurs to those who travel in Moldavia. I was often obliged to content myself with water that was foul and stagnant. The wise providence of nature, in this instance, has gone no further than, in lieu of the springs and rivers of other countries, to substitute in this a great quantity of pools, the natural unwholesomeness of which is increased by the prodigious number of wild-ducks and fish that inhabit them. I found, fortunately, some consolation in a great abundance of melons and arbouses *, which are common here, and extremely cheap.

It was not till the end of eleven days that I reached Jassy; and it was with the greatest difficulty that I obtained accommodations in the inn at which I alighted. This city is

* Arbouses are a sort of fruit in colour and size very much like cherries. They have a sharp taste, and are difficult of digestion. The tree which bears them is called *arbousier*, and merits a distinguished place in the plantations of our winter shrubs.

about a league and a half in circumference: the length and breadth of its streets are almost every where alike; and the same may be said of the exterior of its houses, producing together an uniformity which makes it difficult at first for a stranger to find his way in it. Instead of pavement, the streets are laid with planks and beams, placed cross-ways, and, where exactness in laying them has not been particularly attended to, are very inconvenient to the feet. With the exception of several handsome stone-built houses, belonging to the principal boyards, all the others are low, and have courts before them crowded with buildings made of wood. The streets contain a great number of shops and stalls of every denomination, which, when lighted up in the evening, produce an agreeable effect.

The most remarkable edifice in this city is the palace of prince Ypsilanti, which was inhabited by prince Potemkin during the time of his residence here.

A spectacle which produces a sentiment of pain, and which no humane mind can escape from, is that of the unhappy muti-

lated soldiers one meets at every step in the streets: here you see a Russian who with difficulty sustains himself on a wooden leg, which is substituted for that he lost in battle; there a Turk who has lost an arm; in the next street a poor wretch covered with the most nauseating wounds, which he exposes to the view of passengers in order to excite their sensibility and to obtain alms, that are humiliating only to the government which has left such supplicants unprovided for.

I was not diverted from the painful impressions caused by these miserable objects, until the event of the pompous and splendid entry of the embassy from the Ottoman court on the subject of the conclusion of peace. All the nobility of Moldavia had been to meet it, and formed a most brilliant concourse, consisting of boyards mounted on richly caparisoned horses, and an infinity of carriages of every description. The arrival of the ambassadors, and the opening of the conferences for the conclusion of the peace, occasioned repeated festivities and balls in the Ypsilanti palace before spoken

of; and the apartments I occupied being very near to it, I had a good opportunity of seeing all the splendor and variety of the costumes of the guests. The brilliant illuminations exhibited in the interior, assisted by the enchanting sounds that proceeded from their concerts, appeared to me one of the finest spectacles I had ever witnessed. The rejoicings that took place in honour of the anniversary of the birth of our great empress Catharine were not less brilliant; and the pleasure I experienced on that occasion was doubly welcome to my heart. The sound of canon, announcing the illustrious day, began with the first rays of the sun. All the Russian military, and the inhabitants of the city, assembled in great order in the Greek church. When the customary religious ceremonies were over, oxen, stuffed with all sorts of poultry, and ornamented with ribbands, were roasted in the open air in the great squares of the city, and afterwards distributed to the people. A general illumination in the evening terminated the diversions which had succeeded each other during the course of the day.

It was amidst such pleasures and dissipations that I passed my time while I stayed at Jassy. The 16th of October, 1791, was distinguished by the death of field-marshal prince Potemkin, and the stagnation produced by this event in all public affairs detained me four months longer in this city.

This illustrious favourite of fortune would not, in all probability, so soon have terminated his brilliant career, if he had not set nature at defiance, and had listened to the judicious advice of his physicians. In the state of general debility in which he found himself, instead of remaining in a quiet situation, or using the prescriptions that had been ordered for him, he suddenly conceived the whim of getting into his travelling carriage, and being conveyed to the new town of Nicolaï, situated at twenty miles from Jassy. He had scarcely accomplished a third part of the journey, when, being seized with a faintness in his carriage, he was taken out of it, and expired a few hours after in the open fields. His corpse was conveyed on the same day to Jassy;

and on the third day after its arrival, as soon as such pompous preparations could be finished, he was placed on a magnificent bed of state in a room hung with black, with a crown on his head, the mark of his dignity of *hetman* * of all the Cossacks, and in his hand a commandant's truncheon. Around the bed of state, which was placed under a canopy of scarlet broadcloth embroidered with gold and silver, were laid on cushions of brocade the respective insignia of all the orders with which he had been invested by his sovereign and other European princes. The coffin was surrounded by the principal officers of his army, and by pages dressed in black, and the chamber exposed to public view. The funeral, which took place on the following day, was performed with similar pomp and magnificence. More than ten thousand Russian soldiers, with inverted arms, and preceded by the united bands of all the corps, playing a march adapted to the occasion, followed the procession; to say nothing of

* The dignity of *hetman* answers to that of general or chief of the Cossacks.

Moldavian boyards, Greek priests headed by their bishop, Cossacks, Tartars, and Turks, who all joined in the procession. This remarkable ceremony closed with a discharge of artillery and musketry; and the trump of fame, which had recorded the actions of this important personage during his life, had still much to promulgate even after his death. His body was conveyed to Cherson, and interred in the principal church of that town.

CHAP. II.

Journey in the Interior of the Crimea.

I PROLONGED my stay at Jassy to the $\frac{2}{14}$th of January*; on which day, after providing myself with boots, furred caps, and garments, and taking the precaution to put a good mattrass in my *kibitke*†, I set out, accompanied by a German officer, upon my expedition through the Crimea.

My progress was at first extremely slow ....We left Jassy about eight in the evening, having oxen to our carriage instead of horses, which we found it impossible to

* The Russians still retain the old manner of reckoning by what is called the *Old Style*, which differs from the *New* by eleven days. This difference is expressed by the double date used by the author.

† The *kibitke* is a small cart made of wood, and of a circular form; it is mounted on two wheels, and is like the light carriages used by the Tartars for removing goods or tilts, which they call *arba*. The kibitkes are usually covered with skins or rushes, according to the means of the possessor. Properly speaking, the kibitke is rather a sort of cabin than a carriage.

procure in any part of the city. Our Moldavian conductor, who was not perfectly acquainted with the road, mistook his way when he had proceeded about half a league, so that we wandered at hazard during three or four hours, and at length found ourselves one league from Jassy: it was then midnight, and extremely dark; we therefore determined to wait for the break of day to continue our journey. We arrived at the end of the first stage by twelve at noon, and were fortunate enough to procure horses; but we were under the necessity of employing a whole day, in a circuitous progress, to find a place where it might be possible to cross the Pruth with safety.

In the environs of Bender we passed the Dniester, which was half frozen over; but care had been taken to break the ice, so as to prevent the inconvenience of delay to travellers. All the forts and exterior works of this place, formerly so important, as well as all the other Turkish fortifications taken by the Russians, have been, by the order of prince Potemkin, entirely destroyed, and

rased to the ground. This fortress, together with its town, was formerly situated on the summit of a mountain whose base was on the banks of the Pruth. The town itself is extremely ill built; the streets very dirty, and the houses small; which is the case in almost all the fortified places belonging to the Turks. At a small distance from it they take care to show strangers the spot where Charles XII, king of Sweden, defended himself with such courage and intrepidity against nearly ten thousand Turks and Tartars, with only a handful of brave fellows who shared his misfortune.

On leaving Bender, you enter immediately the plain of Oczakow. It is a vast surface, almost entirely choaked with different weeds, throughout which not a single habitation, tree, or bush, is to be met with, and in which one would be tempted to believe oneself in a desert, were there not here and there a post-house established for the convenience of travellers, and kept by Zuporoguan Cossacks. After travelling three days in this solitude, and now at no great distance from Oczakow, we at length arrived on the

borders of the Bog, which was formerly the line of demarcation between Russia and Turkey. This river was covered with ice even at its broadest part, which is very wide, so that it was not without danger we effected a passage across it.

We now advanced towards Cherson, where we arrived in the evening. This town, which was built about fourteen years ago, is situated on the banks of the Dniester, which forms a port for it capable of receiving a great number of ships. On a slip of land which projects into the river there is a building, or lazaretto, erected for the purpose of exacting the quarantine of the vessels that arrive from Turkey. In times of peace, when the activity of its commerce is uninterrupted, this town is undoubtedly very animated and well peopled; but as these advantages were at this time suspended by the war, I found it rather empty and deserted. Cherson (and probably the same may be said of the majority of new-built places) is a very pretty town, and in the most modern taste. The streets are large and regular. It has a great number of public

places which form so many squares very uniform and agreeable to the eye. In the environs of the principal church, situated at the entrance of the town, is the tomb of the young prince of Wurtemberg who died in Gallicia; also that of general Muller, and of several other distinguished personages. Prince Potemkin is the only person to whom the privilege has been granted of being interred in the church itself. The streets of this town are bordered with shops in the same manner as in all the other towns of Moldavia. To the left of Cherson is a fort, the buildings of which serve for barracks to the garrison, and are sunk low enough under ground to be completely sheltered from the fire of the enemy in case of attack. The ramparts are very high; and the numerous works which defend them are furnished with batteries, and surrounded with very deep moats, curtains, and redoubts, which render the approach to them extremely difficult. Behind the exterior works are some very handsome modern buildings, inhabited by the commandant and other officers of the garrison, the way to which is by a bridge at

each extremity. The enormous expense incurred for the construction of this fort appears almost useless, now that Cherson, by the conquest of Oczakow and all the country situated between the Bog and the Dniester, is no longer a frontier town, or destined to repel the Turks. Over each of the town gates appears the Russian eagle with his wings extended in sculpture, and having underneath different inscriptions, of which I shall content myself with giving the following specimen: "*This is the road that leads to Byzantium.*"

All the environs of Cherson are extremely sandy, and absolutely barren, for a league in every direction; consequently, the inhabitants are obliged to procure all articles for food from Poland, and from the Ukraine; but in the more interior parts of the country the greatest fertility and most smiling abundance are conspicuous. On every side, nothing meets the eye but fields and gardens in the highest state of cultivation; delicious vineyards, and an infinite number of pretty country houses in which the wealthy inhabitants of Cherson pass the summer months. However,

the quantity of sand in the environs of this town, and the violence of the winds that prevail here in all seasons of the year, render the air extremely unwholesome, and frequently produce epidemical and dangerous maladies.

It being impossible, on account of the violence of the winds, to cross the Dnieper and the other rivers that lay in our way, we were obliged to remain a fortnight in Cherson. The melancholy example of one of the conductors of the carriages, who had the temerity to venture upon the ice, and had been a victim to his imprudence, was sufficient to discourage us from engaging in a similar enterprise. However, a traveller just arrived at Cherson from the Crimea having told us that at a place seventy *werstes** higher up towards the north we could pass the Dnieper in safety, we instantly set out; and having crossed the Ingulez without accident, we reached the banks of the Dnieper. But the passage over it did not by any means appear so easy as had been represented to us: independently of the cre-

* The name of a measure used in Russia. The werst is equal to about two-thirds of the English mile, or a quarter of a French league.

vices we discovered in the ice, it was so slippery as to render it almost impossible to stand upon it. In addition to this inconvenience, we were assailed by the most impetuous whirlwinds, which every moment exposed us to being thrown on the ground. In this critical situation, we judged it best to lighten the carriages by taking from them all our baggage: and then fastening them on a small sledge, upon which we placed ourselves also, we pursued our route (observing however the precaution of sounding the ice as we went along) till we gained the opposite shore; where at length we arrived in safety.

In two days after this we found ourselves at day-break at Perecop, where we stayed a few hours for the purpose of delivering some letters with which we had been intrusted. The moat which separates the peninsula of Taurida from the main land is not very wide; in the middle of it appears a very handsome bridge adorned with the arms of Russia. This moat is only half a league distant from Perecop, which is a small insignificant village consisting merely of a few streets.

From this place to Sympheropol, formerly

Achmet-Schet, and the residence of the governor, the distance is very inconsiderable; and we reached it without any inconvenience but that of excessive cold, from which even the warmth of our furs was insufficient to defend us.

I was received with the greatest courtesy and civility by the governor, general Tschigulin; and he had the goodness to recommend accommodations to me which were near his house, that I might see him often with the greater facility.

I now took advantage of my leisure, and of every occasion that presented itself, to make myself acquainted with the inhabitants of the country, as well as with this curious peninsula, which to the present time has had so little intercourse with other places. My love of a country residence, and a taste for the beauties of nature, derived a complete gratification from the plan of conduct I adopted. We lived in this place exactly as if we had been in the country, the town being more like a village than the seat of government of a canton. The pasturage in the vicinity of our abode was quite de-

lightful; and I was assured by several persons perfectly well acquainted with the peninsula, that the spot on which we resided was the finest and most agreeable of any in the same environs. In fact, on whatever side we looked, we were presented with the most enchanting and various points of view: to the east and south, a chain of beautiful mountains covered with wood, and exhibiting the most picturesque and lively verdure: even those that were the most destitute in this respect equally presented to us a style of beauty which it was impossible to contemplate with indifference. Towards the north, in the view of Perecop, and also on the western side, the eye perceives nothing but an enchanting mixture of valleys, plains, and fields; not to mention an infinite number of groves intersected by superb avenues, or by the Salgir, which flows there in a serpentine course, and in several places forms water-falls, whose soft murmurs communicate to the soul a silent and most interesting languor. The only circumstance calculated to interrupt the charm of this spectacle is the regret unavoidably felt in the reflexion of the great scarcity of

inhabitants and villages in a country on which nature has bestowed so many gifts capable of affording the highest enjoyment. The Tartars have some difficulty to accustom themselves to European manners, and to the new domination of the Russians, notwithstanding the continual and soothing attentions and kindness of the governor, who thus endeavours to render his domination agreeable to them, and to induce them to love it. I dined several times at his table in company with different Tartars of distinction, and was an eye-witness of the particular consideration and deference with which he treated them. These same persons occupied some of the most important places in the government. In this country, every village is governed by its mursa, or chief, whom it has the right of electing. The mursa pronounces upon all controversies that arise in the affairs of his district. The majority of the inhabitants adopt the Turkish manner of living, and it very rarely happens that they apply themselves to learning the Russian language with any accuracy. In respect to what concerns their character, I have had opportunities of

remarking frequently among them traits of sublime generosity and mildness, a noble and truly patriarchal simplicity, and an eagerness of hospitality that deserves the highest commendation.

I had one occasion of judging still more closely of the pleasure with which the Tartars exercise this last-mentioned virtue. It is an incident in which I was personally concerned, and I cannot deny myself the gratification of relating it here: I had sold my kibitke for forty roubles to a French officer who was in the Russian service, and he had gone away with the kibitke, to join his regiment, stationed at three miles from Sympheropol, without paying me the forty roubles: he also disregarded the letters I sent him on the subject. I then determined to go to his abode; which step laid him under the necessity of discharging the debt. Returning from this short excursion, a horse I had hired on the road, and which I obtained through the positive orders of the governor, without whose interference I should not have been able to procure any, proved so extremely untractable, that it was with the

utmost difficulty I could get him out of the village. Night having come on rather suddenly, I lost the proper track; and the roads being every where rendered almost impassable from the heavy rains that had fallen, my horse at every moment sunk up to the girths in mud; from which nothing but blows could induce him to extricate himself. I fortunately heard at some distance the barking of dogs; and perceiving also a light, I directed my course towards it, and at length reached a village, where I met with a respectable old man, a Tartar, by whom I was conducted to the mursa's house; who after receiving me with great civility, invited me to sit near the fire, ordered me a good bed, and the following morning sent a guide with me to Sympheropol.

A short time after this little journey, general Tschigulin, whose worthy and amiable character excites my warmest esteem, and who treated me with a kind partiality that I never shall forget, suggested to me the project of making a journey into the interior of this curious country, hitherto so little frequented by strangers. The means he offered me for facilitating such an enterprise

made it impossible for me to remain for a moment undecided. After having procured a stock of provisions and wine, and engaged a travelling companion, I set out for the port of Sewastopol. The weather was most delightful: my road was through a delicious plain, at the bottom of which flows the Alma, continuing all the way to Batchisarai, the ancient residence of the khans of the Crimea, and distant from it only thirty werstes. After a journey of some hours, we found ourselves at the gates of this town, the situation of which is extremely picturesque: it is surrounded on all sides by a chain of high mountains and rocks, which conceal it from the eye till you are actually entering it. What appeared to me the most curious, and excited equally my surprise and admiration, was the configuration of the rocks, on whose forms nature seems to have taken pleasure in bestowing every possible variety: some are rounded like a ball, others are triangular or squared; many of them have the form of a tower, and others present the image of old ruins, or are hewn perpendicularly, representing high walls, whose striking elevation inspires one

with silent pleasute and respect. I employed the rest of the day in visiting a part of this romantic country, and procured a guide to conduct me to a place situated in the middle of the rocks, called 'the fort of the Jews,' which was so named partly on account of the class of men who inhabit it, and partly from the nature of its position, which is such as to render all attempts to reduce it unavailable. This fort appears to the eye nothing more than a small insignificant village on the point of the rock, from whence it commands all the adjacent country by a superiority of elevation of several hundred feet, and is accessible only by a narrow path hewn in the rock wide enough for one passenger. In this spot, from time immemorial, a colony of Jews have lived a peaceful life, sheltered from the vexations to which their race has every where else been exposed: here they freely exercise their religion in a synagogue surrounded by trees of extraordinary height and beauty. Notwithstanding the elevated situation of this village, it is not without springs, rivulets, and wells, whose waters, conducted by canals and pipes, flow in irre-

gular courses over different parts of its surface. This place is also the abode of a kind of animal, called *elan*, which much resembles the stag, and is in many ways of great use and profit to the inhabitants.

At the approach of night, I descended into the town, and found in one of the apartments of the palace an excellent bed with pillows of down prepared for me, on which I soon consigned to oblivion the fatigue of the day. The principal servant took great pains to show me all the apartments it contained, which were distributed and furnished after the eastern manner. Its exterior has considerably the appearance of a small fort; it is surrounded with moats, the banks of which are planted with trees of singular beauty. Its interior contains a great number of superb apartments, supplied with a quantity of divans* covered with Turkey damask. I observed also the baths, which in former times were destined for the ladies of the khan's seraglio: their

* The divan is a kind of easy bed, fashionable among the Turks, and which they use like a chair.

walls were entirely covered with glass. In leaving them, I passed through two large and spacious courts.

Very near to the palace stands the principal mosque of the Tartars, which is a handsome spacious edifice overloaded with ornaments in the Turkish taste. They pointed out to me the place where all the ancient khans were buried: their tombs are adorned with a certain number of turbans.

The next day, having seen every thing that was curious, I commenced an excursion into a part of the country in which the evening before I had seen so many objects that attracted my attention. Accordingly I penetrated more than three leagues into the delightful valleys formed by the chain of rocks which surrounds the town. These valleys, several parts of which are watered by an infinite number of brooks and rivulets, forming at certain distances delightful cascades, are filled with houses and villages inhabited by Tartars. The numerous flocks grazing in the midst of the rocks and steep mountains, assisted by the sweet sounds of the pipes of the shepherds reverberated

by the echoes, presented a spectacle so exquisitely enchanting, that for a moment I fancied myself transported to the blissful plains of Arcadia. Among the number of animals which compose these flocks, is the sheep of the Crimea, whose wool is uncommonly beautiful, and whose skin even in this country is reckoned very valuable, and is much sought after in Russia on account of its durableness, and the degree of increased delicacy it acquires the more it is worn. The cultivation of this breed of sheep, whose excellence is ascribable to that of the pasturage which feeds them, has suffered greatly from the numerous emigrations occasioned by the Russian conquests in this country: but the government is now using every possible means of repairing this disadvantage, and is at present occupied in an important negotiation, the object of which is to transport thither a horde of Nogais Tartars, who have already manifested a desire to establish themselves in the peninsula. If this negotiation should succeed, it will occasion a very considerable increase of both human and animal population.

When I had finished my rambles in this interesting country, I returned to the town. Having met in the streets several ladies dressed in a garment of coarse white flannel, with a veil of the same colour on the head which concealed a great part of the waist, and which had only two small openings for the purpose of affording light, I eagerly questioned the first person I met for an explanation of this spectre-like appearance, and was told that they were nuns belonging to a Tartarian convent existing in the town.

As I had determined to return to the port and the town of Sewastopol before the end of the day, I was obliged to renounce my inclination to see the different objects of curiosity in Batchisarai: I therefore contented myself with bestowing a cursory glance on several considerable village-ruins in the environs, some ancient castles and other edifices which attest the magnificence of this country, which in the time of the Genoese had been so flourishing; and departed immediately after dinner.

We found the road somewhat mountainous, especially along the banks of the little river

Belbekwe. After travelling for some hours, we reached the port of Sewastopol, which in time may become one of the finest in Europe. It is formed by two large bays capable of containing more than a hundred vessels; and it was with a pleasure both new and lively that I enjoyed the spectacle of the sea, and an innumerable quantity of small ships anchored in the port. There were also several ships of war; and in one of them which I went on board of, I met with a naval officer who was polite enough to explain to me every thing that appeared interesting. We afterwards got into a small boat, and were conveyed towards the town, which is situated in the centre of the double inclosure formed by the port. This place, at present in its infancy, gains something every day perceptibly towards its increase and aggrandisement. Plans are in agitation for erecting houses in every direction, and there is no doubt of its obtaining a distinguished rank among towns of the second order. A part of it, like Naples, is situated on the mountains that surround the port, and the other part at the foot of these mountains,

which in general are covered with vines, gardens, and pleasure-houses. Along the sea-shore is a range of houses, which are greatly embellished by the delightful avenues which lead to them. The motion and activity which prevailed in all the environs of this port, the view of the sailors busily employed in the ships, of the fishermen amusing themselves with casting and drawing their nets, the sounds proceeding from the carpenter and mason employed in the construction of an hospital destined to be a retreat for disabled seamen, all together composed a picture that it would be impossible for me to describe. I remained in this gratifying spot no longer than during the remainder of the day of my arrival, and a few hours of the ensuing one: towards noon we set out for Batchisarai, and paid a visit to an English gentleman, who, as well as many other foreigners, was attracted to this peninsula by the advantages eagerly proffered by government to persons desirous of establishing themselves in it. He is the possessor of considerable landed property there. After having procured me the pleasure of

seeing the different establishments he had newly finished, he conducted me to an eminence, where I enjoyed the delightful view of the whole country, watered by the Alma, and interspersed with different mountains, which add to the luxuriousness of this beautiful landscape. I found it impossible to resist the strongest emotions of pleasure at the sound of the warblings of thousands of nightingales, inhabitants of the groves here and there dispersed in this country, and which not a little contribute to its embellishment.

I found this first excursion so very agreeable, that, on my return to Sympheropol, I again applied to the governor for permission to make a second journey into another canton. The pleasure with which he granted my request increased my gratitude, and did not allow me to lose a single moment. I set out, as soon as I had prepared the necessary arrangements, upon my new expedition.

I directed my route for this time towards Sudak, an hundred werstes distant from Sympheropol. We slept the first night at Suis,

distant only twenty werstes from that town, and early the next day we arrived at Karabasar, which, after Batchisarai, is the largest in the Crimea. From Sympheropol to Sudak we found a very pleasant road, though in general rather difficult to pass over; it lies across mountains and rocks full of thick wood and brambles, with here and there an intermixture of vines, which appeared to be well cultivated. It was five o'clock in the evening when we arrived at Sudak. This place is composed of only a few houses, among which is that of the commandant; and, from its position, is one of the most delightful towns in all Taurida. It is encompassed by a chain of beautiful mountains, almost all of which are planted with vines. This species of cultivation is making a rapid progress, on account of the excellence of the wine, which is esteemed one of the best produced in this peninsula, and is extremely prized in Russia. It has, in common with most of the wines of the Crimea, a sweet taste, and must be exceedingly salutary. It is of a refreshing rather than a heating nature. In the midst of these vineyards, and on the hillocks

which make a part of the mountains, appears an infinite number of gardens and pleasure-houses; the charming avenues leading to them conducting also to the summit of the mountains, from whence an unbounded view of sea and land presents itself. The day had begun to decline when I reached the top of one of those mountains, situated near the sea-shore, and covered with rocky protuberances forming a great number of little bays. I remarked also the ruins or vestiges of an ancient fort, of pretty considerable dimensions, and connected with the times when the Genoese resided in this country. The fort was destroyed several centuries ago; but it is very easy to form an idea of what it was, from the extent of the moats and canals, the traces of which are still visible; also from the size of the stones with which its towers and walls were constructed. On the point of one of these rocks there still exists a high tower, which probably served as a pharos to conduct the ships that arrived. Nothing recalls to the mind a more positive and evident conviction of the instability and vicissitude of human concerns, than the view of these

towns and fortresses, become a prey to the ravages of time, and presenting to the eye nothing but the spectacle of scattered ruins, now become the abode of wild birds of every kind.

As night was rapidly advancing, I hastened to regain the house of the commandant.

The following morning, at break of day, I recommenced my expedition, for the purpose of visiting a small place called Old Crimea, from which it is very possible that the whole country derived its name. It is the residence of the bishop of Taurida; where he inhabits a very handsome and extensive palace, which was built for the czarina at the time of her making a tour to the peninsula. There is still existing in this country the residue of a colony of foreigners from various nations, but particularly from Germany. The establishments ordered by the empress Catharine, for the benefit of this colony having never been completed, the number of persons who inhabited it is so greatly diminished, as to leave but very few behind. I stayed in this place to examine a silk-manufactory established some years ago by a subject of the duke of

Parma: but whether from a want of workmen, or of sufficient skill for managing and conducting it, the manufactory is still very far from having attained the degree of perfection to which those of the same kind have arrived in France and Italy. From Old Crimea I proceeded to Theodosia, which in former times was so considerable and flourishing: it is situated on the banks of the sea, and its small port, together with the vestiges of its ancient fortifications, are still to be seen. This town exhibits now nothing but a melancholy assemblage of stones, which revives the remembrance of its former splendor only to contrast with that of its present decay and ruin.

Leaving Theodosia, I returned to Sympheropol. I observed several insignificant places on the road, which offered nothing worthy of remark. The construction of the houses in these different places in general reminds one of the simplicity of the first ages at the epoch of the nativity of the arts: beams, or branches of trees, placed irregularly one on the other, the interstices filled with moss; roofs covered with straw or wood, on which are placed stones intended to keep the straw

in its place; such are the materials that compose the abodes of the inhabitants: however, the foreigners who settle here generally build houses of stone for themselves. This reasonably induces one to believe, that this country, so favoured by nature, wants nothing but the hand of the labourer to exhibit a high state of cultivation, and that in the lapse of fifty years, or perhaps sooner, it will be one of the most flourishing countries of Europe.

As this second excursion by no means satiated my curiosity, I lost no time in projecting new adventures. I was unwilling to have it said that I had neglected taking a near survey of the Tsherderdak, one of the highest mountains of the Crimea. I therefore set out one day, at about eight in the evening, that I might arrive early at the foot of this steep mountain, and avoid the heat of the sun, which began to be very ardent. My Russian guide, not being perfectly acquainted with the roads, contented himself with following the banks of the Salgir. Being extremely dissatisfied with his uncertainty as to the way we were to proceed in, and equally embarrassed how to direct him

myself, I determined to go to the first large village near us. When we reached it, I went directly to the mursa, and requested him to furnish me with a guide better acquainted with the roads and the country. He readily complied with my request, and I reached Fabel, situated at the foot of the mountain, and at fifteen werstes from Sympheropol, by one o'clock in the morning. The chief of this village, which makes a part of the numerous domains of general Popow, received me with very great civility, in consequence of a letter of recommendation I presented to him from the governor; and when I had rested myself some hours at his house, I proceeded towards the mountain, in spite of all the remonstrances I received in regard to the danger of travelling on that road, together with assurances that many persons had experienced the truth of them at their cost. To secure myself from the attacks of robbers, with whom I was informed that all the woods and passages of the mountains were infested, I gratefully accepted of three men, whom the mursa had the goodness to provide for my escort. The first aspect of this enor-

mous mountain is as striking as it is extraordinary: its form is exactly similar to that of a tent, on which account it is named in the Russian language *Palatka*, and in that of Tartary *Tsherderdak:* it is half as high again as all the other mountains of the Crimea, which are themselves very elevated: at the foot of it is a considerable extent of thick woods, which contain a multitude of wild boars. As you ascend the mountain, the road becomes more difficult and steep, with here and there, however, a spot flat enough to serve for a resting-place. We were three whole hours reaching the summit; but the enchanting prospect it afforded amply recompensed the fatigue of the journey. I had the pleasure of beholding underneath me the beautiful peninsula in all its extent, its mountains, its valleys, its woods, its towns, and its villages. I continued eight whole days in this place, without being able to exhaust the vast picture that on all sides excited my admiration and astonishment. Towards the north, I discerned distinctly the little town of Perecop; towards the west and the south, the Black Sea, which waters the

coasts of the peninsula; towards the east, the Sea of Asoph, which however, on account of its distance, was not so easily distinguished.

I had scarcely enjoyed this majestic and enchanting scenery half an hour, when the sky became covered with black clouds, which very soon descended half-way down the mountain, substituting for the spectacle I had been enjoying, another, which, though less agreeable, afforded me however, on account of its novelty, very high pleasure. A most violent storm took place beneath my feet, and filled my soul with I know not what sentiment of joy and terror, which, in the state of astonishment and stupor into which this striking occurrence had thrown me, it was impossible to develop. The cold with which I was seized on the summit of the mountain obliged me to think very soon of departing. The clouds however had removed; and I had the pleasure of beholding the picture I had so ardently enjoyed by degrees re-animated, and presenting me, in the midst of different objects becoming insensibly visible to the eye, with attractions that drew all my attention. I discovered a great number of the grottoes,

cavities, and abysses of the rocks. The snows, with which these last are filled, and which exist eternally, give birth to the Salgir, and sustain besides an infinity of smaller streams, which flow in an irregular course on every side. This great quantity of water, produced by the melting of the snow, as it escapes from the gulfs and profound excavations which it seems to have assisted in forming, encounters in its passage to the foot of the mountain different rocks, which convert it into a number of cascades, the noise of which is loud enough to be heard at a considerable distance. The water is extremely cold, and so limpid, that notwithstanding a depth of seventy fathoms, the sound of a piece of money being thrown in, and reaching the bottom, would be distinctly heard. I discovered in different parts of the mountain many loud and distinct echoes, which return several reverberations.

The day now verging to its decline, and feeling the necessity of a little repose after an excursion of ten hours, I began to think of returning to the nurse who had given me so hearty a welcome; and I had every

reason to be satisfied with the excellent supper and bed he afforded me. At break of day on the following morning I took leave of him, to return to Sympheropol.

I was no sooner arrived than the worthy governor, who had already witnessed the pleasure with which I related all I had seen, proposed to me to visit Kerst and Jenikale, places situated on the Sea of Asoph: the first is said to have been the residence of the celebrated Mithridates, who so often resisted and defeated the Romans. Among other vestiges of antiquity, is the tomb of this king of Pontus. On the road between Kerst and Jenikale appear also many ruins of pagan temples consecrated to Neptune and Diana. Notwithstanding the pleasure I promised myself in visiting this country, I did not take advantage of the facilities offered me by the governor; and this happened not only on account of the distance of two hundred and fifty werstes which I must have travelled, but also from my desire of joining the head quarters of the Russian army which was then in Poland. The only place I visited therefore, at this time, was an estate

given by the empress to baron de Buhler, and which was at a short distance from Symopheropol.

I went for the second time to Karasbasar, a place I have before spoken of. From thence I proceeded to Kushlaw, a charming spot situated in a delightful valley, and where I found a Russian regiment quartered. The colonel, to whom I had been recommended, received me with the greatest politeness and kindness. I was enchanted with the view of the camp, which was stationed on a hill. Among the number of tents, I took particular notice of that appropriated to colonel Godlewski. As soon as I had dined, I got into my carriage, and in a few hours reached the residence of Mr. Buhler, a domain of considerable extent. I reckoned in it four small villages, the environs of which are planted with woods and fruit-trees of all descriptions. After viewing every thing interesting, I returned to sleep at colonel Godlewski's at Kushlaw. The next day, after seeing his regiment exercised, which appeared to me as well disciplined as nourished, I once more took the road to

Sympheropol, where I arrived at an early hour.

On the $\frac{13}{24}$ of June, 1792, I left this town, and bade adieu to the governor, penetrated with the sincerest sentiments of gratitude, and which I feel much better than I can express. If all the persons belonging to him had treated me with the same friendship and kindness, the four months I passed in this town would have been the most agreeable of my life.

After having procured my little stock of provisions, and furnished myself with six bottles of the best Crimea wine, and two flasks of *liqueurs*, I got into my kibitke, accompanied by a young man of my own country, and very amiable, with whom I directed my journey towards the head-quarters of the army which was in Poland.

CHAP. III.

Journey through Poland to Petersburg.

THE rapidity with which I performed this little journey, afforded me the opportunity of only the following remarks.

Three days after my departure from Symphéropol I arrived at Perecop, where with my travelling companion I remained two days; which gave me leisure for examining this town more minutely than I did when I visited it before, and of judging more favorably of it, though its situation appeared to me far less agreeable than that of the greatest portion of the places which fall under observation in the interior of the peninsula. A great deal of salt is collected in its environs, which renders the air very unwholesome. The produce of this commodity is very advantageous to the inhabitants. Almost all the southern provinces of Russia and Poland are entirely provided with salt from the Crimea and the neighbouring districts.

which is partly collected on the sea-banks, and partly from the waters of several large lakes.

From Perecop I went to Cherson, where I stayed a day and a half; which afforded me an opportunity of visiting the tomb of prince Potemkin, which is placed in an arched vault situated exactly in the middle part of the church. The sarcophagus which contains the remains of this celebrated man rests on a pedestal of marble inscribed with epitaphs of some merit. Having finished my visit to the tomb, I again pursued my journey at nine in the evening, and the next day at day-break arrived on the banks of the Bog. After passing this river, I very soon reached Leopold (Olviopold), a small town newly built, and situated within the government of Catharinoslaw on the confines of Poland and Moldavia: it is a place inhabited and fortified by Jews. After remaining there two days, I took the road to Dubassar: this place is much increased within a few years, and is now become one of the most considerable of the province. The circumstance which has greatly contributed to so

rapid and sudden a change, is its situation upon the Dniester, which is extremely favorable for its commerce, in a great measure consisting of salt. Its houses are similar to all those in the small towns of Russia, built with wood, and generally separated from each other. The governor who at this time commanded in the place, general Kachowski, had the goodness to invite me to dine with him: I met at his house several boyards, who had emigrated to this country in consequence of their repugnance to their new hospodar.

From Dubassar, I proceeded to Tulezni, a charming town, and rather considerable, belonging to field-marshal count Potozky, a Pole. The scarcity of post-horses obliged me to stay a day in this place, and I employed it in visiting the magnificent castle of the count. I found it environed with beautiful gardens, and a great number of pleasant walks. The adjacent country is perfectly well cultivated.

As we advanced by degrees in the southern provinces of Poland, we were sensibly struck with the difference between the numerous population and laboured culture

of this country, in comparison with what we had observed in the desolate provinces of Russia. The greatest part of the houses and villages are built with stone, which produces an air of cleanliness and competence that is very pleasing. We found a considerable fermentation existing in the country, on account of the animosities which had broken out between the Russians, and the Poles who were partisans of the new constitution. We were cautioned to be on our guard.—After another short day's journey, we arrived at Niemirow, a pretty considerable town belonging to count Vincent Potosky, who has established in it several manufactories, which begin to be very flourishing. Among other things, they make there very pretty handkerchiefs and printed cravats, which are sold in Warsaw for English merchandise. In the environs of this town there are many walks and avenues, inhabited by a great number of Germans, and which not a little contribute to its embellishment.

On the $\frac{1}{15}$ of July, 1792, we at length reached the town of Zaslaw, belonging to the prince of Sangusko. After remaining some

days in it, I took advantage of a very favorable occasion that occurred, for continuing my journey towards Petersburg.

On the 5th of August we were already very near to Moscow. This was one of the coldest days we had experienced in the course of the journey, and we could not dispense with our furs, to which we had been obliged to have recourse, till about noon. What interested me most in our approach to this city was the number of agreeable seats and country-houses belonging to persons of rank in Moscow, which are scattered to the right and left in the skirts of the extensive forests which cover this country. At a distance of about five werstes from Moscow we ascended a great height, from which we contemplated this city at our ease. Its immense extent, the incalculable number of steeples and churches, their domes surmounted with gilded crosses, a great portion of which are plated or tinned, the neatness of the roofs of the houses, which are covered with tiles of all colours, and very skilfuly painted, altogether formed a charming spectacle, which we had

the pleasure of enjoying till the very moment of entering the town. Moscow stands in a very elevated situation, as all the way to it from Kiow is by ascent. But the road which leads from Moscow to Petersburg is precisely the contrary.

Within the last twenty years, this city has greatly improved, in respect to the morals and taste of its inhabitants, and the beauty of its houses. Luxury also appears to have advanced in it by rapid strides. All sorts of provisions are extremely dear, but they are supplied in great abundance; even the most delicate articles are obtained in Moscow with as much facility as if they were there produced. The cultivation of the gardens, which in the last few years has considerably increased, occasions such a superabundance of vegetables and fruits, as to make them an exception to the prevalent dearness of commodities in general, they being supplied at a reasonable price.

I employed the eight days I passed in Moscow, the population of which is much more considerable than that of Petersburg, in observing the most interesting objects it con-

tains. Every thing appears, as well as the city itself, on a gigantic scale. The palaces of the men of distinction, and of the majority of the Russian nobility, who reside principally in this city, possess a colossal grandeur; and are filled with a considerable number of domestic *serfs*, attached to the service of all the men of rank. The hospital for foundlings is one of their benevolent establishments, and perhaps one of the most extensive and vast in the whole world. In the number of their hotels is the house of assembly of the nobility, lately built, and in which festivals and balls are held during the winter. I did not omit seeing the archives, which are very considerable, and arranged with equal care and taste. I was present at a very splendid gala given by count Scheremetof at Kuskowa, one of his estates, situated at a small distance from Moscow, in a country interspersed with an infinity of charming woods. The beauty of its avenues, the good condition of the gardens, and the different buildings that compose this residence, are well worth inspection. Opposite to the park belonging to this seat is a small lake,

which has in it a handsome galley given to count Scheremetof by the empress. I remarked also, with infinite pleasure, a very good dairy in the Dutch style, and a select collection of paintings of the best masters of the Flemish school. The gala opened with a comedy. As the number of spectators was too considerable to be contained in the large room prepared for the purpose, I was disappointed of using the entrance-ticket that had been given me; but I was recompensed for this privation by a *divertissement* which took place after the play, and before the supper, on a theatre raised for the purpose under the covered walks of the park. Towards eleven o'clock the whole of this numerous assembly was invited to partake of a most splendid repast served up in different apartments, which was succeeded by the most brilliant fire-works, that at first excited the admiration of all the guests, but were afterwards on the point of terminating in very dangerous consequences. A wooden alcove, which had been erected for the purpose of affording the company a view of this exhibition, suddenly took

fire; fortunately, however, means were soon found to extinguish it, and the accident produced no other inconvenience than that of alarm. The whole concluded with a promenade in the avenues, which were very brilliantly and tastefully lighted. I returned about day-break to Moscow.

In continuing my route towards Petersburg, I experienced an accident near Wisnei-Wolotschok, ten stages from Moscow, of a disagreeable nature, and which a little retarded my journey. Proceeding along the shores of a lake which were perpendicular, towards midnight our carriage, owing to the carelessness of the driver, was hurried forward to so considerable a depth into the water, that it was only by the greatest good fortune we escaped very serious consequences. All our strength was necessary to draw back the carriage, and to replace it on *terra firma*.—In the canton of Jederowo, three stages from Wolotsk, the different points of view that present themselves begin to be very pleasing. The church of this place, which is perceivable at a great distance,

forms a perspective which excited in me as much pleasure as interest. This transition from valley to hill, perpetual in this country, rendered it impossible for me to be sensible of a moment's fatigue from the length of the way. From Jederowo we continued our route towards Waldaï, a small town most pleasantly situated on the borders of a large lake, and almost contiguous to another called Dimogor, consisting of a single range of houses all built of wood. In the middle of this lake rises an island covered with wood, and containing a convent, whose steeple, towering above the trees, exhibits a very romantic appearance. I arrived, a few days after, at Petersburg, without inconvenience to my health from the fatigue of the journey.

At Petersburg I was present at the different festivals given by the court on occasion of the anniversaries of the saints of the princes of the imperial family. As each prince bears several names, these festivals are renewed pretty frequently. The great solemnity of the day is announced at sun-rising

by several volleys of artillery. Towards noon the court assembles in high ceremony, and approaches the empress for the purpose of accompanying her to church, where divine service is celebrated with great pomp. When this is concluded, her majesty dines in public, attended by a numerous and brilliant suite of officers attached to the court. On these days, all well-dressed or respectable looking persons may enter any part of the palace. The eating room contains a gallery, where spectators may place themselves, and enjoy, without restraint, a view of the magnificence every where prevalent, and hear the excellent music which is played during the repast. It often happens that balls are given in the evening, to which the most distinguished of the citizens are admitted. On these occasions many thousands of tickets are distributed; and the motion produced by the crowd, and the variety of figures and costumes presenting themselves, exhibit the most amusing picture imaginable. Dancing is no where more delighted in, or better executed, than at Petersburg. These re-

joicings are commonly terminated by the most magnificent illuminations, which, in the principal streets, and in the windows of the hotels belonging to men of distinction, present a spectacle of the utmost pomp and luxury. The eye can with difficulty sustain the glare of light produced by the multiplicity of lamps that illuminate these different edifices, and which are distributed with so much skill and variety as for a moment to produce the feeling of being transported to the land of fairies.

It is impossible to resist the sentiments of respect which penetrate the heart on beholding the statue of Peter the Great. An enormous rock should be imagined transported to the middle of a magnificent square, and on the top of it a horse of colossal size, on which is seated the creator of Russia, with one hand bestowing benedictions on his people, and holding the reins of his horse with the other. The statue is surrounded with iron rails very curiously wrought, and the point of each bar is gilded. On approaching it, one cannot help feeling high

admiration at the boldness of the work, and the talent of the artist who effected its execution.

The magnificence of the theatres, and the sums that have been expended on them, surpass every possible description. I was present at the representation of the pieces *Olga* and *Fevey*, written by the empress herself, and played with a perfection worthy of the author. The dresses and decorations at the first of these pieces cost more than 100,000 roubles *. The last act represents the Olympic games. The circus, in which the combatants appear, contains nearly 600 actors, all in the Greek costume. *Fevey* is not less interesting: it exhibits the different costumes, usages, and dances, of all the nations in subjection to Russia. This mixture forms the most striking and agreeable *coup d'œil*. The illusion is even carried so far, as to have imitated the scenery of the countries, represented as much to the life as the

* The rouble is a Russian coin worth about three shillings and nine-pence English money, taking the average price of exchange.

costume in the dresses. This exhibition concluded with the most delightful ballets, executed by the celebrated dancer Pile and mademoiselle Rossi.

In the beginning of the year 1793, the empress having determined to send an extraordinary embassy to Constantinople, her majesty bestowed this honorary mission on general Kotusow, under the title of Embassador Extraordinary to the Ottoman Porte. After taking some steps for the purpose, I was fortunate enough to obtain a place in the numerous suite that was to accompany him: I also received from the college for foreign affairs a sum of money sufficient to defray my expenses as far as the frontier of Turkey, and to procure me the necessary accommodations for making a suitable appearance in this brilliant embassy. My preparations for this purpose occupied the remaining part of my stay in Petersburg.

I resided seven months in this capital, and quitted it towards the end of March 1793, accompanied by a young man of rank with whom I was on terms of intimacy, and who,

as well as myself, was engaged in the embassy. Followed by a kibitke which contained our baggage and servants, we set out for Elisabethgorod, situated at a small distance from the frontier of Turkey, and in which place the whole embassy had been directed to assemble by the end of April.

CHAP. IV.

I LEFT Petersburg with my companion on Holy Thursday, the 14th of March, 1793, at ten o'clock in the evening, taking the road towards a small town called Roshestwen, which we reached the next morning, perfectly satisfied with the fine weather, and the roads we had passed. We breakfasted at the house of an old friend of my companion, who treated us very hospitably. Soon after breakfast we took our leave, and continued our journey. The sharp penetrating air which prevailed, and the long and barren road before us, were not circumstances to put us in good humour. But if the country we passed through offered us no interesting objects, we were, however, in some measure recompensed by the superior accommodations of the post-houses, almost the whole of which had been built on the occasion of the empress's journey to the Crimea in 1787, whose route we fol-

lowed as far as the town of Weliki-Luki, about seventy miles from Petersburg; after which we proceeded in a direction a little more to the right. The marshy and rough condition of the roads, occasioned by the heavy rains which had fallen in the beginning of spring; the tardiness of the post-boys, and their tone of familiarity at Porchow; the impudent vulgarity of the master of the post-house at Dubrowska; the want of horses at Beshanicz, where we lost almost a whole day, and where, among other things, they stole from us an excellent map of the posting roads of the Russian empire, together with our passports, which obliged us to obtain new ones in the town of Weliki-Luki above mentioned; all these inconveniences together did not a little contribute to impede our progress. Fortunately, the cheerful and agreeable situation of this town made us in a short time forget the difficulties we had met with, or at least afforded us some moments of gratification to make us amends for them.

On arriving at Witepsk, a town of White Russia, we had the satisfaction of meeting

with a large portion of the suite of the embassy, and of passing a very agreeable and amusing evening with our colleagues. The next day, at day-break, we were under the necessity of resuming our travelling staffs, and our journey lay across a country so rugged and difficult, that we were more than once obliged to spend half a day in completing a single stage, and still oftener to harness ourselves to the carriage, to draw it along. In the environs of Bawinowicz we passed the Dwina, which still remained half covered with ice.

On Saturday the 6th of April, in the morning, we reached, with the most pleasant weather imaginable, the little town of Shoff, belonging to general Sovitsch, late adjutant-general of the armies of the empress, who has greatly embellished it. A large fair is held in it, which is resorted to by all the dealers in Poland and Lithuania. This place is particularly remarkable for the great number of horses sold there.

On Sunday the 7th, in the morning, we arrived at Mohilow, capital of the government of that name. It would be difficult to find a town more invitingly situated than

this. A chain of picturesque mountains, at the foot of which runs the Dnieper, surrounds it, and serves for fortifications raised by the hand of nature. On the banks of the river are situated the suburbs, almost all the houses of which are built of wood; while those of the town, on the contrary, are generally of stone: among the latter is the episcopal palace in the middle of the town.

After indulging ourselves in a little repose from our fatigues, we again set out to encounter afresh those which naturally awaited us. From Mohilow to Elisabethgorod, the place of our rendezvous, was a distance of more than an hundred and fifty miles; and though we travelled night and day, and never stayed more than six hours to rest in any place, yet we did not reach it in less than from fourteen to sixteen days. We met with nothing worthy of remark in the whole journey; and I shall confine myself therefore to the observing, that the roads were in general very bad and tiresome. We had to pass over ground in some places covered with water, and in others with snow, to such a

height, that we could with difficulty make good our journey. In addition to these circumstances, we were under the necessity of disputing frequently, either with the post-boys, who were of a very low order of beings, or with their masters, who scarcely exceeded them in refinement. All this was ill calculated to put us in good humour. What added still further to our difficulties and fatigues were the necessary preparations for passing the Dnieper, on which we embarked at some distance from Krementchuk. We were a whole day in the passage; however, we had no sooner put foot on shore, and entered the government of Catharinoslaw, which lies a little to the south, than we had the pleasure of enjoying all the charms of spring. Instead of land covered with ice and snow, we no longer perceived any thing but smiling verdure, and fields strewed with flowers, which greatly enlivened our journey. The roads were every where dry, and the sky pure and serene. We travelled nearly two hundred and fifty miles, attended with these advantages, in the space of a month;

and they were absolutely necessary to make us forget the preceding inconveniences we had experienced.

The ambassador, lieutenant-general de Kotusow, arrived very soon after us at Elisabethgorod with his lady, who accompanied him as far as this place. He took up his abode in the palace, which is delightfully situated; and all the persons belonging to his suite were distributed among the inhabitants. My companion and myself fell to the lot of a captain of Cossacks, whose attentions and unbounded civility rendered our residence in this town extremely agreeable. It was with a kindness and cordiality truly patriarchal, that this respectable man, as well as his wife and children, fulfilled towards us the duties of hospitality. On my part, I sought every opportunity of manifesting my gratitude, and of saving them every superfluous trouble or expense. The chamber we slept in was small and rather dark; but all our necessities were supplied with so much zeal and kind-heartedness, that it never occurred to us to dwell for a moment on this inconvenience.

The whole embassy remained in this town more than a month, which period was entirely consecrated to the necessary preparations for our entrance upon the Turkish territory, which was only forty miles distant from Elisabethgorod. The necessity each of us lay under to supply his own wants, did not a little contribute to make our residence in this place very expensive. The indispensable expenditures I had made in the course of the journey amounted to more than seventy roubles; but, fortunately, we were in hopes of obtaining some reimbursement from the treasurer of the embassy; and the directions he had received to this effect shortly dissipated our fears, and supplied us with new resources.

I employed as much of my time as was not spent in writing, during my stay in this town, in making different excursions into the country situated in the environs of the Ukraine, which is extremely beautiful and fertile. I penetrated two or three miles into this charming country in every direction on foot, and I always recollect the time I passed there with the most lively satisfaction. My fa-

vourite walk was that situated opposite to the palace. The little serpentine river which flows among the numerous orchards and kitchen-gardens to be found on this spot, to say nothing of the vines, the fields, and enchanting meadows lying contiguous to them, form the most picturesque and gratifying view imaginable.

Such was the kind of pleasures and occupations to which I devoted myself during the month of May, which I passed in Elisabethgorod. I was also witness of a fire which broke out in it in the night, and which reduced to ashes many houses built with wood. Our caravan now left this place to proceed to Dubassar, where the embassy was expected by the Turks, and where an exchange of credentials between the two ambassadors was to take place. From this time our march assumed a very different figure from what it had previously done. We now composed a little army advancing gaily, and easily, and abundantly provided with every thing that could contribute to its accommodation and pleasure. Our purveyors always went before

us; and, wherever the embassy stopped, we found the tables already spread and served with equal care and magnificence. The most distinguished persons in the suite were in handsome carriages followed by a long file of vehicles filled with servants and luggage. The march was closed by a detachment of well-disciplined Russian troops. All the roads were lined with spectators, who assembled from all sides to gratify their curiosity with the sight of so numerous a cavalcade.

We had left Elisabethgorod on Sunday the $\frac{15}{26}$th of May, about nine in the evening, in the order I have just described; and arrived towards midnight at Gruska, which was our first station. As I was already acquainted with this country, having passed through it in my excursions to and from the Crimea, I experienced double pleasure in this opportunity of seeing it again. Invited by the beauty of the season, and accompanied by several of my colleagues, who were equally fond of travelling on foot, I seldom waited for the departure of the caravan to set out. I preceded it; and it more than once

happened to me to have completed on foot the two stages which in general was the allotted distance for a day's journey. We always found ourselves amply compensated for the slight fatigue we underwent, by the enchanting points of view which presented themselves, and which we enjoyed at our ease. From this method we acquired also increased appetite, and were doubly sensible of the pleasures of repose, when the hour for abandoning ourselves to it arrived.

Already we descried the town of Olviopol, situated on the Bog and the Simuhu. The island covered with trees and verdure, rising from the bosom of the water in view of the town, and the ruins of an old fort on the mountain by the river's side, form a most romantic and agreeable landscape. In order to reach Dubassar the sooner, we left the great road, as it was probable we should meet with villages on it that might tempt us to stop and refresh ourselves: we therefore determined to proceed by the plain of Oczakow, which offered nothing to our view but a few tents, and some habitations dug under ground and belonging to the Cossacks: at these

we halted from time to time, for some hours together, to rest ourselves. The Cossacks, notwithstanding their vicinity to the Russians, the Poles, and the Moldavians, who all offer them the example of cultivating their lands, and of having a fixed abode in towns or villages, remain as faithfully as ever attached to their ancient wandering habits of life, and ignorant of any other occupation than that of rearing their cattle. They pass the greatest part of their life on horseback, armed with arrows and lances, which they handle with admirable dexterity. They dig large holes in the earth, and deposit in them their food of all kinds, both for present and winter use. Being somewhat at a loss what road to take along the plain, we soon mistook our way, and had already taken the direction towards Bender, when we suddenly perceived a village, to which we eagerly hastened our steps, and immediately procured a guide to conduct us to Dubassar, where we arrived the $\frac{24 \text{ May}}{28 \text{ June}}$, early in the evening.

In this place we remained about fourteen days. During this interval the Russian and Turkish ambassadors made preparations for

their entry on the territory of their respective destinations. I was here lodged in the house of a Jew, whose nation occupies the greatest part of the town, and who allotted me very reluctantly a small chamber in it, extremely dark, and the windows of which were formed of paper instead of glass. Obliged to retire with his wife and family to a corner of the vestibule of his house, our Israelite was not in very good humour with the arrangement. I endeavoured to console him as well as I could, by giving him hopes that my intrusion would be but of short duration. I took advantage of our stay at Dubassar to examine all its environs, which I found perfectly cultivated, and very fertile. The situation of the town, on the side which commands the Dniester, is very pretty and agreeable; it is also extremely favourable to commerce with Russia, Poland, and Turkey; and the activity of this commerce, from the daily encouragement it meets with, adds considerably to the affluence which prevails in this place. Its population also is greatly increased by the numerous emigrations of the Moldavians and

Greeks, who go there to seek, under the Russian domination, an asylum from the vexations of their princes and the oppressions of the Turks.

The $\frac{4}{15}$th of June was the day fixed on by the two ambassadors for the passage of the Dniester, which forms the line of demarcation between the two states. The whole suite of the Russian embassy commenced their route at seven in the morning, advancing towards the place where the passage was to be effected, at about three miles from Dubassar. The march was begun in the finest weather possible, and with such perfect order, as to present a most striking and gratifying exhibition. A detachment of cavalry and of infantry, followed by a troop of well-mounted Cossacks, opened the procession. These were succeeded by a file of handsome carriages, containing a certain portion of the civil officers belonging to the embassy: then followed the ambassador himself, surrounded by a troop of cavalry and principal officers attached to his person: next appeared a considerable number of carriages, in which were conveyed the remainder of the civil officers,

followed by baggage-waggons, carrying their domestics, their apparel, &c.; a second detachment of troops closed the march of this procession, which formed in all a line of nearly half a league in extent. As soon as we arrived at the place which had been marked out for the purpose, the Turkish embassy was seen advancing in the opposite direction to meet us. Nothing could be more strikingly contrasted than the appearance of the Turkish embassy and our own. The one was seen covered with wealth, gold, silver, and costly ornaments; while the other exhibited the greatest simplicity, and the most martial and impressive appearance. Here every thing was in brilliant confusion; Turkish horses richly caparisoned, covered with housings of immense value, which reached to the ground; mean and beggarly carriages; and the Turks themselves in their Oriental costume, and advancing with the greatest irregularity:—There, on the contrary, all was order and propriety; not a step that was not regulated, not a manœuvre that was not performed with the greatest precision. Deafened as we were with tumult, with hurried

cries, and the discord of a barbarous music, we preserved the most perfect tranquillity; and our music was soothing, rich, and delicious. On either bank of the Dniester was a flat-bottomed boat, fitted up with the utmost magnificence, and destined for this ceremony. It was in these boats that the two envoys took their departure from their respective territories, in the midst of the volleys of artillery and the firing of musquetry by the troops placed on the two shores, and of the sound of all the Russian and Turkish instruments of music. The suite of the two embassies embarked in petty shallops, less costly in their decorations, and more simple than those which had served to transport the persons of the envoys.

As soon as we had landed, the Russian embassy proceeded to occupy the camp which had been prepared for it, half a league from the shore, in the vicinity of the village of Krinteni, where we passed nearly a fortnight. My situation in this place, as well as that of my companions, was not very alluring; we were all lodged in an indifferent tent, where we were exposed to the rain and wind; this incon-

venience, however, was in some measure compensated by a variety of pleasures and amusements. On the evening of the first day of our arrival on the Turkish territory, we were complimented with a grand gala, in which was exhibited the most studied magnificence. The next day we gave audience in full ceremony to an ambassador of the pacha of Bender, who came to offer us assurances of the friendly disposition of his master, and of his desire to exert every means for the protection of our enterprise, and to afford us all the accommodations in his power; at the same time soliciting the patronage and kindness of the ambassador. The rest of the audience was consecrated to mutual offers and assurances of gratitude and friendship.

To give a proof, on each side, of the high satisfaction with which the event of peace and union between the two powers was considered, not a single day passed, during the time we stayed in this place, that was not distinguished by rejoicings and festivals; fireworks, illuminations on the banks of the river, feasts, balls, dances, and every kind

of diversion, in which both the Russians and the Turks took part with equal confidence and eagerness. It was a truly affecting spectacle to behold two nations, who a short time before entertained against each other the most virulent animosity, and breathed a spirit of carnage and death, now eagerly hastening to load each other with proofs of friendship and good understanding, and mutually abandoning themselves to demonstrations of the most extravagant joy.

After passing ten days in this manner, we again set out on the 14th of June. It was commonly our custom to travel between three and four leagues every day, and the third day we regularly devoted to repose. At sun-rising the drum gave the signal for departure, and a few hours after we arrived at the place destined for our next station. A part of the retinue, as in former instances, was disposed of in the houses of the inhabitants, and the remainder under tents. Towards noon we all assembled to dinner in the great tent of the ambassador, and the rest of the day was devoted to the pleasures of society. We passed our time nearly in this manner

during the whole journey. The following is a statement of our route:

	Leagues
From Dubassan to Krinteni	½
To the village of Paschkan	5
To the town of Kischnewo	4
To Strascheni	4
To Kalarasch	4
To Waltschinesti	4
To Ontschesti, or Resina	4
To the town of Zizora	2
To Jassy	4
To the post-house of Skintey	5
To Anstchesty	4
To the town of Wasluy	4
To Burlat	5
To Dakulina	4
To Guru Zarasnebuluy	5
To the town of Tekutsch	5
To Pomistrazeskuluy	4
To the river of Mulkow, near Fokschany	4
To Slobodseja	6
To Topkitschan	3
To the town of Budsew	7
To Marschiniani	5
To Pudukitam	7
To Kraze	4
To Bucharest	3
To the river of Sabare	2
From the river of Sabare to Kalugaleni	4
To Adaja	4
From Giurgewo to the little river of Ramadan, a short league further	4

	Leagues
Passage of the Danube; next, in the middle of the river, the town of Tschernodvi	2¼
To Genowe	4¼
To Rasgrad	3
To Insular	5½
To Schiumla	3
To Semidoff	5
To Taschalinawan	3
To Dobral	4
To Karnabad and Chwastan	8
To Papasly	7
To Chanly Janitsche	8
To Tol Babe	3
Passage by the city of Adrianople, and next by Katschilar-Kiosk	2½
To Kutschely	7
To the town of Burgas	8
To Tschorto	8½
To Seliwrey	8
To the town of Bujuk-Tschemerscha	6
To Sankt-Stephan	4½
To Constantinople	3
Total	222

We had the finest weather imaginable on the first day of our journey towards the village of Paschkan, across a most delightful country. I observed, on the highest part of the mountains which prevailed there, some sepulchral stones, small columns, and

crosses, on which inscriptions were engraven, that excited our curiosity. These monuments, destined to preserve the memory of different remarkable events which have happened in the country, are in general of the remotest antiquity, and relate to the times of the campaigns of Trajan, and many other Roman generals in these territories. All the elevations, also, still existing on the hills, are tombs of the warriors who perished in battle, and were interred in these spots.

The position of Paschkan, between two mountains, is infinitely agreeable. We reached the town about noon, and at night were lodged in the houses of the Moldavian inhabitants, who eagerly fulfilled towards us the duties of hospitality, offering us the best of every thing they possessed. In general, a certain degree of culture and improvement is apparent among this people.

The cleanliness and order observable in their habitations afforded us a very pleasing proof of this remark. Obliged to give up their most convenient apartments to us, and to retire with their family to the vestibule of their house, or to some corner where they were

crowded all together, they did not, however, evince the least ill-humour, perceiving that we ourselves took particular pains to make them feel as little as possible the burden imposed upon them, and which was to be of short duration. In fact, we again set out very early on the following day. The march of our retinue formed a very pleasing exhibition from the high parts of the mountain which begins immediately at the end of the village. Kotusow, our ambassador, was on horseback, surrounded by a great number of Turks of distinction, well mounted, and superbly dressed, who had come from the environs of Bender and Jassy. By his side marched the troop of cavalry, belonging to the suite of the embassy. Next followed our carriages and equipages, which occupied an extent of about half a league. The beauty of this spectacle, and the delightful weather, to say nothing of the charming views which presented themselves on every side, and were rendered still more animated by the immense concourse of people who had assembled from all parts, and who mingled exclamations of joy with the sound of our

martial music, altogether formed, a scene the most enchanting, and calculated to excite general hilarity. In order to derive every possible enjoyment from it, I determined to leave my carriage; and accordingly proceeded on foot towards Kischnewo, accompanied by several of my companions. In this village we found the houses extremely clean, and reposed in them at our ease, after the heat of the day and the fatigue of our journey. The respectable Moldavians of this place, as well as those of several others, treated us with the greatest frankness, and confided to us the nature of the oppression they experienced from the tyrannical government under which they lived. They told us that the persons who were set over them for governors, instead of endeavouring to alleviate the scourge of war, of which this country had been the theatre, evinced on the contrary no other design than to wrest from them their money and their provisions, and to retain them in a state of the bitterest oppression and misery. This was the motive which had forced the inhabitants of this rich and beautiful country to

take refuge in the neighbouring territory of the Russians and the Austrians, who received them with open arms. In spite of these emigrations, and the rigour of the government, it is admirable to observe with what promptitude the province has repaired the ravages and disastrous consequences of the war, every trace of which a very few years will no doubt effectually remove. This proves the riches and the resources of the country, on which nature seems to have bestowed her benefits with a most liberal hand: in fact, few countries are better situated for sport, for the rearing of cattle, for fishing, and the cultivation of the vine and the fields.

On the $\frac{17}{11}$th of June we left Kischnewo; and, in order to avoid the high mountains we must have crossed to follow the shortest road, we made a little circuit, and arrived towards noon at Strascheni. This place is one of the best built and most agreeably situated that we had yet met with on the Turkish territory. It is surrounded with high and picturesque mountains, covered with woods, which are full of game of every kind. The whole of this country is ex-

tremely woody; a circumstance affording a source of numerous and considerable advantages to the inhabitants.

On the following day we proceeded to Kalarasch, where we took some repose. It is impossible to behold a more beautiful country, or that exhibits more enchanting points of view than that we passed on our way hither. Two leagues beyond Walschinesti, we met with one of the highest mountains we had observed in the whole of our journey. After having proceeded for some time along its woods, the scene suddenly changed, and we entered upon an immense plain, and were on all sides presented with an infinity of objects, which we viewed again and again with new pleasure and admiration. At the distance of half a league we met with a curious object of another kind; it was the spot where prince Potemkin yielded his last breath. On the opposite side of the mountain appears a column erected by order of the empress, for the purpose of transmitting this event to the latest posterity. The beauty of this monument does not, however, perfectly correspond

with the enormous expense incurred for its construction. The column is built of brick, and has on it the following inscription in the Russian language:

"It was in this spot that prince Gregory "Alexandrowitsch Potemkin, the Taurian, "departed this life on the 5th of October, "1791."

On the opposite side are these words: "The arch of heaven was his canopy, and the "earth his bed. Thus he quitted a world, "the seat of inquietude and devouring care."

After consecrating some moments to reflecting on the manner of the exit of this extraordinary man, and on the instability of all human grandeur, we again proceeded to join our camp at Resina, a league distant, where we spent a day, and, leaving it, continued our route towards Sisora. The whole embassy visited this place with more than common interest and curiosity, on account of its having been two years before the residence of the celebrated field-marshal count Romanzow, to which he retired after ceding the command of the army to his competitor prince Potemkin, who was, more particularly

than himself, entitled to the good offices of the empress. In this place the hero fixed his retreat, and formed the resolution to end his days in the silence and tranquillity becoming a true philosopher. It would be difficult, in fact, to find a more agreeable spot. The house he lives in is charming, extremely large, and built of freestone. The gardens belonging to it are carefully cultivated. The house is situated on an eminence, commanding a view of a magnificent plain, which is watered by an infinity of rivulets, and adorned with large trees of the greatest beauty, that form a number of avenues of immeasurable length.

As this place is but two leagues from Jassy, the capital of Moldavia, the Russian ambassador received there a visit from the son of the hospodar, who presented himself with great ceremony: he was accompanied by a numerous suite of officers attached to the service of the court, and by the body-guards of his father. Our ambassador received him with the politeness and distinction due to so great a personage. A short time after arrived the Russian consul, M. de

Severin, at the head of a great number of merchants, and other inhabitants, who wished to be presented to the ambassador.

On Friday $\frac{24}{5}$ June July, at nine o'clock in the morning, we again resumed our travelling order, and proceeded towards Jassy, whither some of the persons of the embassy had already proceeded, after the exchange of credentials which had taken place on the banks of the Dniester. From the place of our departure to Jassy, we found the road lined with an innumerable crowd of persons whom curiosity had attracted thither from the neighbouring towns and villages. About a league from thence, we perceived the prince of Moldavia advancing in person in a handsome carriage with six horses: he was surrounded by his guards and the militia of the country, and was come for the purpose of meeting our ambassador, whom he accompanied to Jassy. Every window was filled with spectators to see our march; and some persons had even climbed to the tops of the houses. On entering the hotel which had been prepared for our reception, we found a handsome dinner served with

every delicacy, and with great magnificence. The prince dined with us; he seated himself next to the ambassador at the top of the table. All the Moldavian noblemen belonging to the court placed themselves on the right hand, and the persons belonging to the embassy on the left: towards the close of the day, some music, a good deal like Turkish music, began to play, and continued till every one retired to the arms of sleep, and to a respite from the fatigues of this tumultuous day.

We staid a fortnight in this town, during which time the prince assiduously exerted himself in procuring us every kind of amusement. Each day introduced its particular festival; and the few moments I could steal from this current of pleasures were devoted to visiting the curiosities contained in the town and its environs; the prince affording us all the means in his power to facilitate our gratification in this respect. This hospodar is descended from a Greek family, from which the grand sultan regularly draws the princes of Moldavia and Walachia; and the preference is always

obtained by him who offers the largest sum of money. The name of this prince is Sutzo; he possesses a very mild character, and announces the most favourable disposition towards those who are subjected to his dominion.

A Moldavian prince finds himself in a very disagreeable situation. The place of hospodar which he occupies is too uncertain and precarious to stimulate him to meritorious exertions, or even to excite in him any emulation of that sort. It very rarely happens that the hospodars retain their post more than five or six years, because the Turkish government, whether from avarice in the view of receiving more frequently the presents and sums which always accompany the ceremony of taking possession of the office, or from the policy of preventing any prince from having time to form a considerable party in the country, have adopted the custom of frequently changing them.

During my stay at Jassy, I embraced the opportunity of using the Turkish baths that are established there, and was extremely

gratified by the order and cleanliness with which they are conducted, and the civility of the assisting attendants. The moment you get out of the water, you are attended by men appointed for the purpose, who rub the body with peculiar dexterity: they have also a talent, entirely their own, to supple and extend all the limbs; and I found this operation of so much use, as to make me forget all the fatigues and hazards of my journey.

Our residence at Jassy terminated with two very splendid repasts, which were alternately given by the hospodar and the Russian ambassador. The magnificence of the latter was brilliant and imposing. The whole of the reigning family were present at it, as well as the most distinguished of the Moldavian nobility, with their wives and children.

This repast was followed by a ball, in which the Moldavian ladies, whose beauty and splendid dress excited our admiration, executed, with infinite grace and readiness, the different dances of the country, which they appeared eager to make us acquainted

with. Several young officers belonging to the embassy, exhibited, in their turn, some of the English and Polish figures; and the ball passed away in repetitions of the dances each party had taught the other, till a very late hour of the night. The festival was closed by a magnificent supper; and the sun had already risen above the horizon when the guests retired.

A few days after, the prince gave us, in his turn, a gala, which greatly surpassed, both in magnificence and the expense of its decorations, the one already spoken of. In consequence of the invitation we had received, we repaired to the garden of his palace, where we found a most sumptuous dinner, consisting of every possible rarity, and served up under tents. The numerous society of charming women who had been invited, the lustre of their beauty, the splendor of their dress, and the enormous profusion of pearls and other jewels with which they were covered, added considerably to the attractions of this brilliant scene. Towards the evening, a second ball commenced, which was infinitely more delightful than

the former one, in consequence of the progress that had been made in learning the different dances, and the increased intimacy which prevailed among the dancers.

After passing ten days amidst pleasures and festivals, we quitted Jassy with the same order and pomp with which we entered it.

At a short half league from thence, we were very agreeably surprised, on arriving at Galatha, to find a magnificent breakfast prepared for us, by the prince's order, in a convent situated on an eminence. Four large tables covered with foreign wines of every kind, with excellent fruits, and the rarest and most delicate viands, were placed under tents decorated with garlands of flowers, and ribbands of all colours. As we were invited to partake of this repast, we readily halted; and, without further ceremony, placed ourselves round the tables. The Moldavian noblemen of the court, who were present, mingled with our party, and repeated toasts were given to the health of the prince, who so condescendingly and generously exercised towards us the duties

of hospitality. When we had heartily regaled ourselves, we took leave of *their excellencies*, and continued our journey in the accustomed manner; that is to say, by moderate stages, and even a small augmentation of the days allotted to repose.

In our way, we passed through Burlad, which was formerly a very flourishing town, but which now exhibits marks of the ravages of the late war. The town was reduced to cinders by the Turks themselves, to gratify their animosity against the inhabitants, on account of their attachment to the Russians. We observed no other remarkable place till we came to Fockschany. This little town, situated on the frontier of Walachia, is one of the best built and most considerable places of Moldavia, after Jassy, and is surrounded with mountains. Like Burlad, it suffered deeply the ill-effects of the war. There are yet remaining the ruins of several houses which were reduced to ashes at that epoch. It is difficult not to feel the most painful sensations on the view of so much destruction.

I profited of the stay we made in this

place, to visit, with some of my companions, the two convents of Lagniera and Otobetsch, situated three miles from thence, and of which we had heard a description that excited my curiosity. We set out about six o'clock in the morning, in very fine weather, but excessively hot. We first crossed a very agreeable plain, at the end of which we found a quantity of vineyards fenced with hedges. Besides these, we also saw different villages situated at the foot of the high mountains, which on all sides environed the convents I have just spoken of. The little river of Milkow, which separates Moldavia from Walachia, and which serpentines most agreeably along the road, was on our left. When we arrived at Otobetsch, the nearest of the two convents, we stayed to rest ourselves in it a couple of hours, which time we devoted to admiring the picturesque situation of the place, surrounded on all sides by high mountains covered with thick woods, and appearing separated as it were from the rest of the earth. I know of no place which seems better calculated for

persons who have a taste for solitude. After dinner, we continued our route along the river Milkow to visit the second convent. The prospect is bounded on the right by the high mountains and rocks which skirt Moldavia. To the left, on the contary, appear the vast and fertile plains of Walachia; and, in the distance, are pretty distinctly descried the blue mountains of Transylvania, deriving that tint from their great distance from the place at which we perceived them. The high gratification afforded us by all those objects encouraged us to proceed to Lagniera, where we were exceedingly well received by four Greek monks who inhabited this convent. They offered us nothing but bread and wine; but these they presented with such genuine hospitality, that it would have been difficult even to wish for any thing better. They showed us all the curiosities of their house and their church, which is very handsome. But nothing interested us so much as the delightful and extensive view which presents itself from the elevation on which the convent is built. We returned, enchanted with our tour, to Fock-

schany, where we arrived about ten o'clock in the evening.

The embassy now proceeded in its march across fields still reeking with the blood which had been shed in them during the last war. As we travelled through this theatre of murder and carnage, we approached Rymnik, the spot where the prince of Saxe-Cobourg, in concert with the Russian general Suwarrow, cut to pieces the army of the grand visir. On the banks of the river are still distinguishable the places in which were erected the batteries of the allied armies. At the extremity of the village of Rymnik, through which we passed, we saw a convent that has been rebuilt within the last six years. Its form is precisely that of a strong castle; and the highest part of the tower of the steeple commands a most admirable view. The mischief occasioned by the Turks to this convent is not yet entirely repaired. It is impossible to witness, without the liveliest regret, the mutilation of a beautiful statue in stone, representing Samson seated on a lion. The remains of this fine piece of

sculpture sufficiently announce its original perfection.

We were now in Walachia; and, finding ourselves in the midst of vast and almost desert plains, filled with large roots of wild herbs, it was difficult to suppress the recollection of the delightful and fertile lands of Moldavia. The apparent indifference of the inhabitants, and the ill grace with which they exercised hospitality towards us, were the more disgusting to us, from forming a complete contrast to the cordiality and marked attentions we had previously experienced from the Moldavians. However, by the order of government for that purpose, we were sometimes obliged to employ force to obtain from these Walachians what they would not bestow by fair means. They were required to furnish us every day with a considerable quantity of provisions, fruits, and wines of all sorts. In all the places through which we passed we found ready prepared the magnificent breakfasts which had been ordered for us. These accommodations, and the obligation to lodge us in their houses, and to remove

our baggage at their own cost, were extremely oppressive to those poor inhabitants, who had recently been so ill treated in the last war; and as all these charges were so many levies for which they received no recompense from the government, it would be unjust to feel too much displeasure against them on account of their disinclination to receive us.

The further we advanced towards what is properly called Turkey, the more we observed of the Eastern costume in the usages and manners of the people we met with. We remarked that the women were more reserved, and appeared less in public. We had ourselves already begun to adopt insensibly the Turkish manner of living. After the example of these musulmans, sherbet became our favourite drink, and we found that nothing was so well calculated to refresh us during the great heats which then began to take place. This drink is prepared with the juice of lemon, and a certain portion of water, in which is mixed a little essence of roses and sugar. In order to have it always fresh, it is generally put into

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ice, and sometimes made with it. The different fruits of the country, and particularly the half-ripe water melon, became also very agreeable to us, and we found them extremely refreshing.

On the $\frac{2}{3}$ July, August, we already found ourselves at a short distance from Bucharest, the capital of Walachia. Our reception and entrance into this city were not less brilliant than they had been at Jassy. The hospodar, accompanied by a numerous retinue, composed of his officers, some on foot, and some on horseback, came out to meet the ambassador a short league from the city. This cavalcade was infinitely more numerous and magnificent than that of the prince of Moldavia. At a certain distance from this place we found some large tents, erected by order of the hospodar, under which we were served with the most sumptuous breakfast. Notwithstanding all this appearance of politeness, we thought we perceived less frankness and cordiality in his reception than in that of prince Sutzo. Two hours after this repast, we continued our journey towards Bucharest.

On entering Bucharest, as had been the case at Jassy, we were attended by a numerous crowd of spectators. We were lodged in a building of very large dimensions, where every thing requisite for our convenience had been carefully provided. The hospodar had ordered us a very considerable dinner; and we had the pleasure of partaking of it in company with himself and all the officers of his suite. As every thing relating to ceremonials, in similar circumstances, had already been adjusted, the prince and all the persons of his court were placed on the right side of the table in their quality of hosts, and those of our embassy were placed on the left. Our stay in this city was accompanied with pretty nearly the same circumstances as at Jassy. We were engaged in a succession of pleasures and festivals, consisting of repasts, concerts, balls, excursions to the different pleasure-houses of the prince, illuminations, fireworks, &c.

As to what relates to Bucharest, I confess I did not find its situation nearly so agreeable and cheerful as that of Jassy. It is, however, half as large again, and has a much

greater number of inhabitants. What necessarily attracts the attention of a stranger, are its public walks, situated on the banks of the little river Embrowitz. They form very pretty bowers and shaded walks, which, in the evening, are frequented by a numerous crowd, attracted by the beauty and coolness of the situation.

Some days before our departure, the hospodar gave us a ball, and a brilliant supper, at his country house, which is situated opposite to the town. All the gardens were illuminated; and there were also fireworks, which were no otherwise remarkable than by a large quantity of sky-rockets. After the ball, which finished at a very late hour, all the persons of the embassy were conducted to their lodgings in the same carriages which had before fetched them. A slight indisposition of the ambassador detained us at Bucharest till the 10th of August. This delay was the more vexatious, as the unwholesome air of this town, together with the bad quality of its water, had affected the health of many persons of our embassy, and seemed to threaten the remaining part of

them: in fact, how could we escape this apprehension, in a place in which the animals killed for use are exposed on stalls in every street, where they soon become corrupted by the ardent heat of the sun?

On Wednesday, the 10th of August, we at length prepared for quitting this town, after having remained in it nearly a fortnight. When all our luggage was ready, we dined at the ambassador's, and then retired to our apartments till the heat of the day was a little abated.

My companions and myself, having taken leave of the Greek in whose house we lodged, and who had been tolerably attentive to us, prepared for leaving the town with the less reluctance, from the circumstance of not having been entertained in it with the same friendship and cordiality as we had experienced from the respectable Sutzo at Jassy. After having emptied some bottles to the health of our host, we bade him adieu, and began our march.

The sky was covered with clouds, and a tremendous wind filled the roads with whirlwinds of dust. We passed leisurely through a

quarter of the town which we had not seen before, and which is situated on a mountain that entirely commands the environs.

We next entered upon a large plain, which conducted us close to the pretty convent of Wackaresti, at the distance of some werstes. The hospodar, who had accompanied our ambassador as far as this place, now took leave of us, with the Russian and Turkish music playing, and amidst peals of bells from all the steeples of the neighbouring convents. We now experienced a slight shower, to which succeeded a beautifully clear moonlight, which we had the pleasure of enjoying all the way to our camp, situated at a small distance from the river Sabara, ten long werstes from Bucharest. We passed the night in this place; and early the next morning continued our route along the Sabara. This river we crossed by a wooden bridge, which conducted us to a spacious road, adorned with clumps of trees in continual succession, near which runs the Ardgesch, a river of tolerable size, and whose course is very picturesque. After passing this river by a drawbridge, we descried, at a

distance, several edifices in ruins, before we arrived at the camp of Talastovn, situated in the midst of mountains covered with thick woods, on the banks of the Kilneschti. The water of this river is beautifully limpid, and is bordered by trees and bushes without presenting any thing further remarkable.

On Friday we halted. Towards the evening, when the heat of the day was passed, we took a walk in the woods which covered the mountain, and had the pleasure of enjoying on its elevations a complete view of the camp: the motion and activity which every where prevailed in it were objects considerably interesting to us.

On Sunday, $\frac{13}{24}$ August, we proceeded on our journey immediately after sun-rising. The road we now passed through was as detestable as we had found the bridge solid and good. It was, however, a little better than that of Kaligulini, which we had determined to follow. After having crossed woods, and an extensive plain, we at length perceived to the left a very large valley, watered by the Danube, which flows majestically towards the Black Sea. The valley was covered by

a slight mist, which prevented our perceiving all its beautiful windings. We walked in this valley, alternately rambling through corn-fields, and inclosures of vines which had just been planted. Upon the highest part of the little mountain we left to our right, we perceived here and there many lone houses all the way as we passed to the large plain of Adaja, on which our camp was stationed. In this place we witnessed a melancholy example of the religious fanaticism of the Turkish priests in the persons of two dervises, who were employed in flagellating themselves with bundles of leathern thongs and with whips loaded with bullets and spikes of iron.

About seven o'clock on Sunday morning we directed our march towards the middle of the plain. We found a very large quantity of lofty oaks along the whole of the ten werstes we travelled to reach the shores of the Danube. The river was covered with large and small boats, conducted by a great number of Walachians and Turks, who had been ordered to convey us and our equipages.

It was in this place that we dismissed the horses of our Walachian conductors, and made use of oxen afterwards to draw our carriages. I embarked in one of these little sloops to cross the Danube, which in this place is about two werstes, or half a league, wide; but lower down on the right it is considerably larger. At the distance of a short league to the left, on the borders of Walachia, is the castle of Guirgew, situated in an island with the town and fort of the same name. Its high towers, which are perceivable at a great distance, form a very agreeable view. The governor of this place had arrived the evening before at Adaja to pay his compliments to our ambassador. We now lay before a desert isle in the Danube, and our conductors were obliged to take a compass to avoid it, till we came in view of our camp, which was situated on the opposite bank of Bulgaria. They now shifted the sails to another direction, in order to avoid a bank of sand which had lately formed itself in that place. We perceived at a distance some of the steeples of the town of Rutschuk in

Bulgaria; and the mountainous coasts of this province presented themselves to our view till the moment of our disembarkation.

As soon as we had landed, we instantly harnessed a couple of oxen to our carriage, which conducted us to the camp a short distance from the Danube. The inhabitants of the environs had already placed before the tent of the ambassador a large quantity of the fruits of the country, vegetables, meats, and other provisions, for the purpose of presenting to him at his arrival, which was announced towards noon by the firing of four cannon, to which the fort of Guirgew replied by a general volley. The barge was ornamented with a quantity of garlands of every colour, and had scarcely reached the river-side before it was saluted with another discharge to announce its entrance into the port. The ambassador went on shore, and proceeded on horseback towards his tent, in the midst of a roar of cannon, and hedged in by a line of Russian and Turkish soldiers, and of the principal inhabitants of Rutschuk and Guirgew, by whom were presented all sorts of customary refreshments.

In the same degree as the weather had been bad on Monday, it was beautifully serene on the following day, and we took advantage of it to proceed to Rutschuk. We went out of the camp without asking the capidgi-pacha, who had conducted our suite, for an escort; and, after having crossed the place where the Turks were encamped at a short distance from us, we took our direction through meadows along the Danube. The sky was so pure that we distinctly perceived Giurgew and its fort, as well as a great part of Walachia.

The road by which we passed was covered with a great number of foot and horse soldiers, attracted by curiosity towards our camp. At about a league distance, in which space we had met with a manufactory of bricks, and many well-cultivated orchards, we arrived at a draw-bridge, thrown over a dry narrow ditch, which conducted us to the town of Rutschuk. We perceived here at first only a few houses thinly scattered; but afterwards, going through a large street filled with shops, we found ourselves in the principal square, where we were accosted by

several Turks, who, faithful to the precepts of the Alcoran on the subject of hospitality, offered us coffee and other refreshments. All the women we met wore a white veil on the head. The houses for the most part are surrounded by a high wall precluding the view of what passes in the street, and those which have windows commanding it are guarded with strong lattices of iron, which prevent any approach to them. We had no sooner given indications of wishing to go near those bars to take a nearer view of the women, who had been attracted to them by curiosity to see us pass, than they retired with equal celerity and alarm, and shut the shutters of the windows.

We passed before several mosques, to which the Turkish youth repaired for instruction. After having visited every part of this town, we reached a stone bridge on an arm of the Danube. Crossing this bridge we entered a very dirty part of the town inhabited by Bohemians, and continued our way in this direction to a place where we found several handsome and extensive warehouses, built of free-stone, com-

manding a view of Rutschuk, which appears in the form of an amphitheatre on the hills along the Danube, exhibiting a most delightful view. By the water-side is a charming walk, where we rested a long time, and returned by the same way to the town; when, after refreshing ourselves with some grapes of a most excellent sort and very cheap, we set out for the camp in spite of the fatigue occasioned by the excessive heat of the day.

On the following day we continued our journey with oxen, as not more than two hundred horses could be procured, and these were scarcely sufficient for the accommodation of the ambassador and the most distinguished persons of his retinue. We quitted the banks of the Danube about eight o'clock on Wednesday, $\frac{17}{28}$ August, accompanied by Russian and Turkish music, and volleys of artillery in honour of the ambassador, who opened the march. The other persons of the embassy followed, each according to his rank, and forming a line of almost immeasurable extent. We went through a country of vineyards and plains, till we reached

the further side of the village Tschornowoda, where we encamped on a height. Towards the evening we descended to walk in the village, and met with an old Bulgarian. As he was perfectly acquainted with his language, which bears a strong resemblance to the Russian, he easily understood what we said to him. As we walked along, he gave us different details of the place where he lived, and told us that it contained nearly eight hundred Bulgarians, and about three hundred Turks; that the first of these had four Greek churches, and the last two mosques, the domes of which were perceivable at a great distance. This village is surrounded by a great quantity of trees, which is almost generally the case in Turkey, and they possess the double advantage of affording a delightful shade in so hot a climate, and of forming very delightful views.

The next day we continued our route along several large plains, bounded on each side by woods and large naked rocks. Immediately after passing a bridge situated on a kind of torrent which flows between two high mountains, we took a very steep and

mountainous road of a spiral form, and it was with the greatest difficulty that we succeeded in ascending it, notwithstanding the zeal and activity of a great number of Bulgarians, who came to our assistance. When we had gained the highest part of it, the large valley before us, the high perpendicular rocks, whose jutting protuberances mounted almost beyond our sight, exhibited a spectacle that we contemplated with a mixed sentiment of pleasure and terror. We now descended by the same road, which conducted us through woods into the valley, by which we proceeded very leisurely. A little beyond the village of Turlak we at length reached the camp that had been prepared for us. Our oxen were so much fatigued that it would have been difficult to have proceeded further. As our guides were to conduct us with these oxen, together with some buffaloes, to Rasgtad, five leagues farther on, and we were unwilling to lose several days in regulating what related to the conveyance of our effects, as was the case when we reached the banks of the Danube, we resolved to pursue our journey on the follow-

ing day, and not to rest till we reached Rasgrad. Towards the end of the day, I went with some friends to visit the high mountain at the foot of which we were encamped, in order to obtain some knowledge of the country; nor was I less curious to enjoy the view of our camp, and to observe the road that had been taken on the preceding day by the kitchen-servants of the embassy. In the mean while the sun had disappeared from the horizon, and we enjoyed a spectacle not less pleasing than that afforded by the rustic situation of this place. The lighted fires in the camp and village presented the image of an illumination, and caused us the greatest pleasure.

It was already late on the following day when we moved our camp. The mountainous road lying in our way was alternately interspersed with woods and fields. We passed near several villages, at the extremity of which we observed the Turkish burial-grounds. After a very slow progress, occasioned by the badness of the roads, we at last arrived at Rasgrad, the mosques and minarets of which we had already perceived

at a distance. The streets of this town were so badly paved as to injure several of our equipages. I remarked in them a great number of shops and coffee-houses.

The capigi-pacha had given the ambassador notice that the plague was in this town; but as the inhabitants who came out to meet us positively denied this, it appeared to us to be nothing more than a pretext of the pacha to get rid of the inconvenience of accommodating us. However, we adopted the precaution of placing a numerous guard of Russian cavalry along the streets through which the embassy was to pass, to prevent the purchasing of any fruit, or having the least communication with the inhabitants. Having thus passed through this little town, we hastened on to our camp, placed on an eminence, and surrounded by high mountains, from which a very strong wind blew down upon us, bringing with it a continual rain which greatly inconvenienced us in our tents during the whole night. In order to procure a little rest and ease to our sick, the number of which was become considerable, we staid two days in this camp.

As we were by no means convinced that the plague was really in Rasgrad, as the pacha wished to make us believe, I resolved with several of my companions to make a visit to the town: this we accordingly did, and entered a coffee-house, where curiosity soon assembled round us a great number of persons, amongst whom were several old Turks, who, in passing the highest encomiums on the excellence of their tobacco and pipes, very politely invited us to make what use we pleased of them. Soon after this we returned to the camp, and towards the evening the fancy seized us of ascending a very high mountain opposite to us. We observed from it many very well cultivated orchards, and distinctly perceived the town, and the adjacent neighbourhood.

On Monday 22d of August (old style), we left the camp, and took our direction across a country for the most part untilled. We observed in our way the burial-grounds of several villages. Our road, as well as all the surrounding country, was so mountainous, that we employed near nine hours to travel three miles and an half. It was four o'clock

in the afternoon when we reached the camp, that had been prepared for us on a high mountain, at some distance from the village of Ufarla. To the right was the chain of mountains called Balkans, or mount Hemus. Our camp was situated exactly opposite to one of these mountains, the picturesque form of which resembles a saddle: they are all covered with wood. Next day we set out in very fine weather, but a little cold, crossing alternately in our way the extremities of plains, and some villages enclosed by other mountains, with beautiful valleys at their feet. In general, Bulgaria is a very mountainous country, but highly cultivated. The inhabitants are active, and very laborious. We found in this province a much larger proportion of villages and lands in a state of cultivation than in Moldavia or Walachia. Less exposed to the horrors and ravages of war than the inhabitants of these latter provinces, in Bulgaria every peasant cultivates his field in tranquillity, and lives happily in his miserable hut, enjoying the mild blessings of peace, and collecting with secu-

rity the harvests which ripen for his benefit; and not for a soldiery, whether friendly or hostile, which in other countries devours the fruit of the peasant's labour. What adds still more to the beauty of this province is the stone bridges and beautiful fountains which prevail along the high roads, the latter of which are surrounded with inclosures of freestone. As it was generally reported that the roads were not safe, on account of the number of robbers that infested them, government had ordered a detachment of janissaries, well armed, to be stationed at certain distances, for the purpose of protecting our passage. Those we met in our way were always assembled round a large fire.

On this day our march did not exceed three miles, which we had accomplished by noon. At the bottom of a very high and craggy mountain appeared the town of Schiumla, to the right of which our camp was placed, in a very extensive plain. Towards the close of the day I again visited, accompanied by several of my companions,

the mountains we had passed in our way, in order to enjoy more at our ease the view of the setting sun and the beauty of the environs. To the left, in a charming valley, was situated the town, surrounded with mountains that appeared to be of very considerable extent. Exactly before us appeared a vast plain, its horizon terminating in another chain of mountains, which bounded absolutely the whole prospect to our right.

On Wednesday I went with my companions into the town, which is surrounded with dry ditches and palissades. It was in this canton, during the course of the last war, that field-marshal Romanzow and general Kamensky surrounded the grand visir, and obliged him to sign the preliminaries of peace, which a short time after was concluded at Kutschuk-Kainardschi. The ditch, half choked up, has a draw-bridge across it; behind which, at a short distance, is situated the body of the town. We remarked, in the environs, the tomb of a pacha, very magnificent of its kind. The access to it is by a large open chamber, in the middle of which is a pretty bason,

from which issues a considerable fountain. The tomb is placed in a garden behind this chamber, and both are kept open to the public. At length we reached the town, which is very irregularly built, and the streets of which are unequal and mountainous. It contains very few edifices that merit attention; with the exception, however, of the principal mosque, which is very spacious, and built of stone. We had not the liberty of seeing more of it than through the bars of the windows. It appeared to us to be constructed in a fine and simple taste.

With whatever strictness and vigilance the Turkish women may be watched and confined, they however find means of satisfying the curiosity excited by the sight of strangers passing their houses, and of looking at them sometimes through the bars of their lattices, and sometimes through the crevices of the doors. This serves as some amusement amidst the listlessness with which they are devoured. We were very desirous to enter into conversation with them; but they always retired the moment they perceived the least attempt on our part to approach.

them; besides which the Turks, who, from a propensity to jealousy, never for a moment lost sight of our movements, rendered ineffectual our inclinations and efforts. We observed in the town several tan-yards for Morocco leather, but it appeared to us that this article is much better prepared at Rutschuk than at Schiumla.

On Thursday 25th August (old style), we resumed our march at sun-rising, and proceeded in a valley along the little river Kamtschik, keeping always on the right bank. We passed near several villages, leaving also to the right a high chain of mountains, interrupted by very steep rocks. Towards noon we found ourselves in the environs of the village called Semadowa, where we encamped, and made some stay, for the purpose of resting the bulls and oxen which drew our equipages. This gave us an opportunity of observing at our ease the eclipse of the sun which happened at this time, and was so considerable, that during several hours the disk of this luminary remained in total obscurity.

We quitted Semadowa very early in the

morning, and directed our march towards the hills Balkan, which we were to pass. We had the most dreadful roads for two miles, and were six times obliged to cross the stony river of Bairan, on account of the numerous circuits it makes among valleys full of flint-stones and rocks. The two sides of the road were bordered by steep mountains, covered with thick woods and bare rocks, which made our passage equally difficult and tiresome. Although our carriages were very easy and well hung, we were, notwithstanding, terribly jolted. —This road, in which the state-coach of prince Repnin was broken to pieces at the epoch of his embassy, had, however, been enlarged and levelled in several places. It had also been very carefully repaired, in the course of the last war, for the passage of the grand visir, who had more than once travelled through it with a numerous body of troops, and considerable trains of heavy artillery. After having pushed our way through a pretty large extent of road in this difficult defile of the hills Balkan, we at length reached a large, fertile and well-

cultivated valley, where we discovered the village Tschalikawak, which we went through, and encamped beyond it.

The roads we met with, after leaving this place, were so very bad, that the portion of the embassy belonging to the kitchen was for the first time obliged to renounce the custom of getting the start of us in the night, in order to have our food in readiness. They found it impossible to set out before four o'clock in the morning, which caused us a delay of several hours. The route we followed on this day was infinitely worse and more choked with stones, than that we had gone through the day before. We were so hedged in between the rocks, that it was often with the greatest difficulty that our carriages were dragged along. We were stopped by these and other obstacles at every moment, and being necessarily obliged to proceed very slowly, were almost consumed by the heat of the sun, against which it was impossible to find the least shelter. We crossed several torrents, and the bridge over the Kamptschik, called the *Furious*. This river forms the line of demarcation between

Bulgaria and Romelia. We were next engaged in woods, where our road was equally bounded by high rocks, forming various picturesque points of view, and which more than once recalled to my mind the cheerful landscapes I had met with in the Crimea and in Switzerland. They had no defect but a want of cultivation and animals, of which not the least trace was to be seen. After having harnessed to our carriages some additional oxen, we at length reached the summit of a high mountain, from which we discovered many others at a great distance, and also a number of valleys watered by an infinity of small springs, which flowed among them in irregular courses. Descending from this mountain, we entered a large delightful valley, which in some measure compensated the dissatisfaction and fatigue we had experienced from continually viewing the rocks and mountains we had just travelled over, and at the same time gave us fresh courage to pursue our journey towards the camp, which was some distance from the village of Dobrat, where we arrived at sun-set.

The injury done to our carriages, and the

repairs indispensably necessary for them, obliged us to remain in this place a longer time than we wished. On the third day, as the oxen which drew our equipages had had time to rest themselves, we had decided to push our way as far as Adrianople, without stopping; but the number of our sick increasing more and more, we were obliged from time to time to halt. We had, however, during these three days' journey, a very tolerable road, across a cultivated country, but in general very narrow. The mountains which bound it on each side diminished, however, by degrees, and became insensibly lost in the distance to the right. From this moment the road became smoother, and we met with no farther difficulty than here and there a few small hills, from which we perceived several little villages, the houses of which are roofed with tiles. We saw also different portions of land well cultivated. The nature of this rich and black-coloured soil made us often regret the general want of cultivation in a canton where the cultivator would be so richly recompensed for

his labour. Almost every where else we observed nothing but turf scorched by the heat of the sun.

On Tuesday we encamped at a short distance from the town of Karmabad, situated at the foot of a mountain. I took a walk in it towards the evening, and remarked that it was built in the same taste as the other places of Bulgaria and Romelia. Each side of the street is bordered by a long wall before the houses, the windows and doors of which overlook the court, and not the street, as in the other cantons I had gone through. Forty Jewish families, who profess to have originated in Spain, but whose costume very much resembles that of the Turks, together with some Turkish, Greek, and Bulgarian families, divide the town between them; which privilege has been granted to the Jews in consideration of a heavy tax, which they pay to the Porte for the right of exercising their religious worship. The Greek, Turkish, and Bulgarian languages are in almost general use in Romelia.

We had scarcely entered this province,

near the bridge over the Kamtschik already mentioned, when we met a quarter-master general, or bacha, accompanied by the cadi of Adrianople, who, by the grand seignior's orders, came out to meet and pay their compliments to our ambassador. On the following day we encamped near the village of Chaftan, and directly after before that of Popasli, an inconsiderable place, through which passes the little river Popas, which we crossed by a bridge. As our kitchen-servants arrived very late in this place, we were obliged to dine by candle-light; but we were recompensed for this by the excellent wine and delicious fruits which had been sent from Adrianople for the use of the embassy. We halted in this place, and were present at the celebration of public worship, which took place on the anniversary of the peace, which was concluded on the same day twenty years before. As the ambassador had himself complained of a slight attack of fever, and in the number of six hundred and fifty persons who composed our suite, without counting the laundresses, &c. there were sixty-four sick,

we took a second day to rest ourselves, and did not quit the camp till Sunday morning.

We proceeded at first through a long plain, untilled, at the extremity of which the road became a little mountainous. The first place we met with was the village of Klein-Derbent, where we passed over a beautiful bridge that crossed a river, which just at that time had very little water in it. After having proceeded, during the space of some hours, in a very rough and fatiguing road, between the mountains of Derbent, we reached Gros-Derbent, where our camp was fixed at the distance of a short league.

On Wednesday the $\frac{7}{17}$th of September, continuing our journey, we found better and more commodious roads; which is commonly the case in the environs of large towns. However, the country through which we passed, in general, appeared mountainous, and beyond imagination badly cultivated. Not a single drop of rain had fallen in this country for four entire months; in consequence of which the ground had separated in different places; and this was also the

reason that we found the small rivers every-where dry. On this day we passed over another handsome stone bridge, under which we perceived, instead of water, nothing but a bed of sand entirely dry. After going through several places laid out in vineyards, we entered upon a very beautiful plain, where we met, near a spring abundantly supplied with water, a bostangi-pacha, with his bostangis, and several officers of the janissaries, who were come to Adrianople to meet the ambassador, and to compliment him on his safe arrival. We had no sooner reached a little mountain to our left, than we discovered a vast plain, bounded by other mountains perceivable in the distance, and watered by the Tunscha. We now soon descried the city of Adrianople, and the steeples of its numerous mosques. This discovery became still more interesting to us, when, in addition to it, we beheld several hundred Turks well mounted, decorated with magnificent turbans, and habited in their costume of grand ceremony, which was of the greatest beauty. This retinue

was soon augmented by a great number of inhabitants of all descriptions, the variety of whose habits rendered the spectacle still more lively and animated.

The first edifice whose beauty attracted our attention was the seraglio, which is situated outside the town, and which had been the residence of the sultans before their establishment at Constantinople. This building still exhibits some remains of its ancient beauty and magnificence. It is situated at a short distance from a large wood, by the side of which runs the Tunscha. On the opposite side are different canals with several bridges across them, so that the spot on which the seraglio stands is entirely surrounded with water. The facility with which we enjoyed from this height the beauty of the situation, and the course of three rivers, the Marutza, the Tunscha, and the Arda, which join each other outside the town, together with the position of the village Karagotza, inhabited by Franconians, to whom it has been allotted for a residence, caused us an equal degree of pleasure and interest, and it

was with great reluctance that we quitted this delightful spot.

Descended from the mountain, every one repaired to his ranks; and the whole was disposed for making a pompous entry into the city. As the ambassador's health was not entirely established, he did not ride on horse-back as usual, but placed himself in his state-coach, surrounded by our cuirassiers, or light-horse, and a great number of the persons of the retinue, all handsomely mounted. The Turks who came to meet us opened the march. We advanced thus by a slow pace towards the town, and passed before the seraglio, which we left to the right. Each side of the streets, which are extremely narrow, was bordered as far as our camp by a line of bostangis and janissaries, and by thousands of spectators. We descried, concealed behind the large iron bars, and in the embrasures of the windows, many pretty Circassians, Georgians, and Turks, who looked at us as we passed. Their timid and apprehensive manner betrayed to us that it was only by stealth, as it were, that they dared to be witnesses of this

spectacle. We passed through a long range of shops, continued along each side of the street to the end of the town. After passing several Turkish burial-grounds, situated to the right and left, we at length entered our camp, in which the ambassador was received with drums beating and colours flying. The ambassador, his grand marshal, the esquires, and the first secretaries of the embassy, were presented with a large quantity of fresh and preserved fruits in glass vases. In the afternoon we formed an acquaintance with a French merchant named Terrasson, who resided in this city under the protection of the English. He treated us with the utmost politeness and attention, and on the following day conducted us to see every thing worthy of our curiosity.

He first led us to a very long stone bridge, called Michael's Bridge. It has existed from the time of the Greek emperors, and is built over the Tunscha. After advancing along a handsome quay on the river side, we arrived at the mosque of Bajazet the First. It bears the name of *Imareth*, that is to say Hospital, and is remarkable for the beauty and sublimity of its

institution. They distribute in it twice a week to the poor of the city a measure of rice, which is called *pilast*, by which means the indigent have the certainty of a supply sufficient to satisfy their wants for two days. The hospital for the insane, which stands at a short distance from the Imareth, has also for its object a utility no less honourable and conformable to the mild principles of benevolence. We saw four of these unfortunate beings bound with thick leather thongs. On this subject an observation occurs to me that I cannot help mentioning.

As the clanking of chains tends to augment the fury of the unhappy persons who are sent into mad-houses, or other similar establishments, would it not be both easy to the keepers, and alleviating to the patients, if similar leather thongs could be universally adopted for the purpose of restraint, instead of the chains usually employed as a means of force towards beings whose condition claims our strongest sympathy and compassion?

In order to cool the air of this hospital, it is supplied with a large bason of water, from

which is thrown up a very powerful water-spout: but it appears to me that equal attention has not been paid to means for heating it during winter. The position of this establishment near the mosque, seems to announce the religious sentiment the Mahometans attach to the loss of reason. According to their opinion the maniac has renounced all terrestrial objects, and attaches himself solely to celestial ones. These unfortunate beings are therefore permitted to walk about in these mosques, provided they do no injury to any one. If it happen that they injure any person, the government then contrives means to prevent similar mischiefs, by shutting up its author in some part of the edifice where attempts of this kind are out of his power. On entering the court of the mosque, I remarked, in one of the corners of the grand porch, a bust of porphyry, the head of which is mutilated, and which no doubt represented the emperor Adrian, founder of this city.

Leaving this mosque, we directed our steps towards another edifice, called the mosque of Selim. We found in it much more curious objects than in the first, as well

in the style of its architecture, as by its vast size. Strangers are permitted to enter the first court on horseback, but are obliged to dismount if they proceed to the second; which is much higher, paved with marble, and surrounded by a covered gallery composed of arches skilfully constructed, and the domes of which are roofed with lead. The columns which support the arcades are formed of a single block of marble or granite. The base is decorated with a circle of bronze, and the chapiter is ornamented, or rather disfigured, by a heavy festoon, and pieces of sculpture in the Gothic style. Near to this court are many large woody trees, which afford the most agreeable shade, and excite a sort of respectful sentiment for this place, which one cannot suppress on approaching it. There are also in it a bason and a water-spout of considerable force for the purpose of diffusing a greater degree of coolness. The front of this edifice, its ornaments, entrances, and even its windows, very nearly approach the Gothic style, affording few traces of the Grecian manner. No

mussulman can enter into this mosque with his sandals on; he leaves them always at the door, and puts on yellow slippers. The permission they gave us to go in with our boots was intended as a striking proof of the sentiment of good-will and deference entertained by the Turks towards the Russians.

The interior distribution of the mosque is very simple. All round it is a range of galleries placed simply against the walls. That of the grand signior is ornamented with trellis work, and is at a small distance from the pulpit. In the darkest days of winter the whole is lighted by lamps, placed in large glass globes. In the four corners of the mosque are several minarets *, on the external parts of which are different galleries, which command a charming view of the city and its environs.

We next visited the metropolitan church of the Greeks. It is one of the oldest edifices in Adrianople, and the inside is much

* The minaret is a kind of steeple in the form of a column, containing a stair-case which leads to a gallery, which is built almost at the top. It commands all the houses, and is often higher than the mosque.

handsomer than the exterior announces. The basar, that is to say, the place where all the shops are held, contains very valuable warehouses, which merit the attention of travellers. Nothing can equal the phlegmatic gravity of the Turks, who sit with their legs crossed in their counting-houses; and the conciseness with which they reply to the questions asked them relating to the price of their merchandize is particularly remarkable. They scarcely ever demand too high a price for their goods; in which respects they differ from the Russian traders, who are constantly occupied in alluring passengers to their shops, and exacting an exorbitant price for their articles.

The Begler-Bey *, or commandant of Romelia, has his residence in the most elevated part of the town: he is an excellent man; and, notwithstanding the unalterable strictness with which he governs and distributes justice, all the inhabitants seem

* The Begler-beys, or beys of the beys, an expression answering to that of lord of lords, are governors-general dispersed in the states of the grand signior, as well in Europe as in Asia.

very well satisfied with his administration. His house is situated in the first court of the seraglio: the apartments are in the Turkish style, and extremely well distributed. What afforded us the greatest pleasure, was a pavilion open on each side, from which we viewed a great part of the town. Along the walls is a file of sophas, furnished with cushions of the handsomest quality, and filled with down. In this apartment is a bason filled with clear limpid water, from which issues a water-spout to refresh the air, which is continually embalmed by the perfumes exhaling from the plants and flowers of the adjacent gardens. It is difficult to conceive a more delicious spot. The most melancholy being would here be scarcely able to refrain from high emotions of pleasure on beholding the numerous charms so generously lavished upon it by nature and art. The seraglio is composed of a great number of buildings, all roofed with lead, and inclosing numerous apartments containing baths for the women, &c. The greatest part of these are in good condition, and perfectly fit for use.

Such were the principal curiosities that we had an opportunity of observing at Adrianople. The weather did not permit us to visit the ruins of Trajanopolis, an ancient town, situated at twelve leagues distance; but we had the pleasure of again seeing the handsome paved causeway which leads to Hungary and Transylvania. It first crosses different Turkish burying-grounds, and proceeds by the back of a mountain, from whence are perceived here and there the remains of the country-houses inhabited by the sultans who resided in this town, the greatest part of them having been destroyed by fire.

Having thus examined every object of curiosity in Adrianople, we returned to our camp, which we quitted on the following day.

We at first went through a paved road planted with vineyards on each side; but further on we entered upon an uncultivated and mountainous country entirely devoid of interest. Turf scorched by the sun, or a soil covered with brambles, were the only objects that met our eye on the first day of our

journey from Adrianople till we reached the little town of Chalfsa, beyond which we encamped. This place, with its mosque, like all the small towns of Turkey, forms a perspective of considerable beauty.

On the next day we encountered a road of the same nature as the day before, that is to say, very mountainous, and in a desert country; which was an additional reason for our feeling particular satisfaction when we arrived at the camp in the environs of Baba-Eskisi, on the river Halsa.

Early the next day we reached Burgos, where we encamped. We still experienced the same kind of road, except that it is paved in different places. Descending the mountain in the neighbourhood of this little town, we perceived it distinctly, together with the steeples of several mosques which we caught a glimpse of through the trees. We distinguished also the course of the river Rima, which flows in a serpentine course close to the town, and over which is a very handsome stone bridge. The streets of Burgos are paved; and it contains several fountains, as well as a great number

of workshops, in which is carried on a manufactory of pottery; the principal ingredient of which is a clay of a reddish colour, the produce of the environs. This kind of occupation is the means of subsistence for the greatest part of the inhabitants. They execute with a peculiar dexterity the curious heads on the pipes that are sold here. All the shops, which line the streets on the right and left, are filled with them. I experienced considerable satisfaction in visiting this manufactory, and observing the activity of the workmen who were employed in it, and devoted principally to this object the two days of rest we passed at Burgos.

If our retinue had not been so numerous and well armed, it is probable that our journey from Adrianople to this last town would not have been performed without accidents; for the road by which we came, as well as further on, is continually infested with robbers. They do not seem to be in the least intimidated by the severe punishments inflicted on them by the Turkish government when they are convicted of this kind of offence. In our route we had an opportu-

nity of observing many examples of this severity, recently exercised against some of those depredators, who had been empaled alive, with a stake as large as the arm run through the body and brought out at the mouth. It should seem that so horrible a spectacle ought to be sufficient to establish security on all the high roads. The putrefaction of the bodies thus exposed must certainly be very dangerous to the health of travellers, as well as to that of the inhabitants: but these considerations have very little weight with the Turkish police. We perceived also, in several places, a great quantity of carrion, which, poisoning the air, produces contagious distempers; and these propagating easily during the heats of summer, contribute not a little to the depopulation of these cantons.

After passing several days at Burgos, we moved our camp, and directed our march for the most part across desert plains bounded by high mountains, which were perceivable at a great distance. Several fountains, a pretty considerable number of stone bridges without railings, and which, on this account,

occasion a sort of apprehension to the passenger, are the principal objects that attracted our attention in the course of this march. After passing a similar bridge over the little river Mischiko, we arrived in our camp near the village of Bonjouk-Karistaran. Notwithstanding the insignificance of this place, we however found in it a *chaman*, or bathing-house, and also a *cham*, or inn, in which the horses of Turkish travellers are fed at the rate of twenty paras * per diem. The water which is used by the inhabitants of this place is conveyed from the neighbouring mountains by means of lead pipes, which terminate in wells, and other large reservoirs, placed at certain distances in the country. There is in this village an old church, half fallen to ruins, which serves for the religious worship of several Greek families who reside in the village: there are also still existing some vestiges of ancient fortifications.

The next day we reached a very long bridge over the Ergina, a considerable river,

* The para is a Turkish coin worth about one penny.

and afterwards another of less extent over the little river Warna, on the banks of which we encamped. The difficulties we here met with were the more vexatious, from subjecting us to the necessity of remaining in our camp, and omitting the custom we had hitherto followed, of taking the opportunity of the halt for visiting the environs of the places through which we passed. We were informed, that, at half a league distant, the plague occasioned the most dreadful ravages in the little town of Tschorlo. Prudence therefore obliged us to submit to the necessity of not venturing beyond our precincts; and the next day, instead of going through this town, which was our direct road, we made a circuit, leaving it to the left. We proceeded by a mountainous and sandy country till we arrived at an eminence, from which we perceived at a distance the sea of Marmora, on which Constantinople is situated. This discovery diffused joy and hilarity throughout the retinue. Every one eagerly anticipated the termination of so long and tiresome a journey. After having enjoyed this object for some moments, we

gained a stone bridge over the river Anagli, which flows in a large valley; and here we encamped. As soon as we had dined, several persons of the embassy went on horseback to visit the ancient port of Heraclea, which was not very far off. They informed me, at their return, that this little town is situated at the foot of a high mountain, and that they had seen also the ruins of very considerable ancient edifices, constructed by the Genoese at the time of their being masters of the place.

After a day's residence at Kinigli, we continued our route across very gloomy plains, almost every where covered with scorched grass, and thickets of brambles, which greatly inconvenienced us, so much that we could not proceed a step beyond our tents without being scratched by them. Notwithstanding the neglected state of cultivation in this country, it did not, however, appear to us destitute of inhabitants. We observed pretty generally, on the road, groups of men and women; the first placed on one side, and the women on the other, without being united or confounded together. Almost all the women were

dressed in a sort of black stuff, with deep veils which covered the head and shoulders, and gave them very much the appearance of nuns. To our left extended a long chain of mountains, continuing as far as some stone-bridges situated on different small rivers.

In a very short time we discovered the sea of Marmora, which we again lost sight of a moment after, till our arrival at the camp in the vicinity of the little town of Silivria, or Selivrey. As we were then but at a small distance from it, we had the pleasure of enjoying the delightful views it affords, and of exploring its environs during the two days of rest we passed in this place. A little above the spot where the sea begins, we observed a small oblong island, entirely composed of marble rocks, which have given its present name to this great extent of water. Though this island contains but a very small portion of arable land, it incloses, however, nine villages. The inhabitants maintain themselves by the produce of their fishing. Near it, at a short distance, are situated the

Prince Islands; the mountains and rocky points of which rising above the water are very conspicuous.

The little town of Silivria itself is situated on the back of some mountains, which in general rise from the banks of the sea. Before it is a very fine bay, forming a small port, which at this time was filled with a great number of small craft, canoes, and even ships with spread sails, of a larger size; all of which greatly added to the beauty of the scene.

The Turks and Greeks who inhabit this town presented a most varied and animated picture. Some of them were occupied in throwing or mending their nets, others in repairing the cordage, or spreading the sails; all which produced in the port a motion and an activity which we witnessed with as much pleasure as interest. Behind this place we observed the vestiges of an old fort, different fragments of walls and round towers, which have escaped the ravages of time. By the side of the sea, we particularly marked the traces of several secret outlets, the history of

which either really was, or appeared to be, unknown to the inhabitants of the country.

The interior of the town contains nothing but some indifferent barracks of earth, and an old Greek church, which presents nothing remarkable. The excellent and solid construction of the buildings still existing, and the advantageous situation of this place, very evidently announce the prudence and activity of the Genoese, who founded it in the times when they possessed a great number of commercial places in these cantons, and in the Crimea.

On the second day of our halt in this place, was celebrated the anniversary of the birth of the grand signior. We all repaired to the religious service, which took place on this occasion in one of our large tents that had been purposely decorated for the ceremony. In the afternoon, after having coasted along the steep and mountainous borders of the fort, we visited the residence of a hermit who had built a very pretty cell, in a lonely place, a short distance from the town.

This hermitage, constructed of earth, is situated on an elevation which commands the sea. It is shaded by a great number of fruit-trees, and surrounded by a garden, in which this anchorite cultivates the vegetables necessary for his subsistence. The high mountains near this hermitage are planted with vines and fig-trees to the very summit. We observed also plantations of the cotton plant, a kind of cultivation entirely new to us, and which we had not before seen in this country. We for a long time followed a narrow path along the foot of the mountains.

The striking and majestic appearance of the sea, the view of all its islands, and the vessels which floated on the right and left, appearing in the distance, and the shores of Asia half concealed by the clouds which hung over them, all together rendered our tour equally agreeable and interesting.

On Wednesday $\frac{21 \text{ September,}}{2 \text{ October,}}$ we quitted Silivria at seven o'clock in the morning. We crossed mountains and plains alternately, for the most part along the sea-side. The roads we passed were still better than those we had met with the day before; which made us

presume we were pretty near to the capital. The country was better cultivated, and the villages more numerous. The crowd of people from the country, whom curiosity had assembled to look at us, was also more considerable, and announced the extensive population of this canton. Towards ten o'clock we went through Burgados, a small town situated near the sea. We saw nothing in it worth notice but an old stone steeple, which was fallen into ruins from age. About four o'clock in the afternoon we ascended to the summit of a mountain, from whence we discovered the small town of Bujuk-Tschemerscha, and the camp prepared for us in its neighbourhood. The sea forms in this place a sort of arm or gulph, which advances forward among the lands between the mountains which border the shore. It was on the declivity of these mountains that we took our position, behind the town I have just spoken of, and opposite to which is situated another pretty considerable village. After having crossed this small arm of the sea, by a handsome stone bridge, we soon arrived at the place where we

were to encamp. If our eyes were satisfied with the beauty of this situation, our stomachs were very far from enjoying the same advantage. Our kitchen was already gone before; and the persons of our retinue, who arrived the first at the camp, had so completely cleared the tables, that there was scarcely any thing left for those who came after, and we were glad to catch the few scraps that remained.

The following day I took advantage of the fineness of the weather, to set out on foot with some of my companions, and enjoyed from the top of the mountain, which is close to the sea, a most delightful prospect, still further embellished by the beauty of the site of the environs. Though the roads had been repaired, the wheel-ruts filled up, and little bridges constructed across the marshes, for the passage of our ambassador, yet we did not on this account find the road better, or less fatiguing, than those we had passed before. We were, however, recompensed for the trouble we had in gaining the summit of the mountain, by the magnificent view of the sea

and the adjacent country. If the number of floating vessels presented us with the most cheerful and animated image, that exhibited on the land side appeared to us no less agreeable and busy. In proportion as we approached the capital, cultivation appeared better attended to, and the villages more numerous; a succession of fruit and kitchen gardens, with vines announcing the most abundant fertility, on all sides met our view. As we advanced towards a Turkish inn, situated in the midst of a little wood, and shaded by large and handsome trees, we had the pleasure of meeting with colonel Chwastow, who to the present time had been chargé des affaires to our ambassador. We also found here all the persons of our embassy, who had taken a shorter road, and by this means had arrived long before us. After resting some moments in this place, we again set out in a direction further from the sea. We passed alternately over mountains and valleys. It was on this road that we first met with many camels; which are of the greatest utility in this canton, as well as in the Crimea. They are, however, much more used in the

southern provinces of Asia than in the environs of Constantinople. These animals differ very much from each other in regard to strength. Some of them carry from 400 to 1000 pounds weight. They have the most precise and exact feeling of the weight they are able to carry; and when any attempt is made to burden them beyond their strength, they lie down, and neither whip nor the harshest treatment can prevail upon them to rise. They have in general a very quick pace; and as they are remarkably temperate, and feed on the plants or leaves they meet with on their way, they are supported at a very trifling expense.

Descending from a mountain which we had just crossed, we again found ourselves a little nearer to the sea, which in this place forms a bay of pretty considerable extent. We crossed it by a dyke constructed of sand and earth. This bay, environed with charming woods, rocks, hills, and villages, presented us with an enchanting point of view. After going through the small town of Kutschuk-Schetmetsche, surrounded with high cypress trees, we at a little distance met

with a tent composed of verdure, under which our ambassador received the first dragoman * of the port, brother of the hospodar of Walachia, and several other persons of distinction from Constantinople, who were come out to meet him. We had scarcely gone beyond another mountain, planted with vines, before this grand capital of Turkey appeared to our view. It was, however, as well as the coasts of Asia which lie opposite, at too great a distance to be perfectly distinguished; notwithstanding which, our joy on the occasion was neither less lively nor less general. Though the season was already far advanced, the heat was constantly so ardent that the ground was intersected with crevices in many places. This, however, did not prevent me and my friends from continuing our march on foot, as far as the camp prepared by our attendants in the environs of the little town of St. Stephans. At a very short distance from

* The dragomans are interpreters, employed equally by public envoys and by merchants. This class of men, as we see, merits the most serious attention, since on their probity and intelligence frequently depends the success of the affairs, of which they are in some measure the first negotiators.

thence the Ottoman Porte had placed another camp for the accommodation of the embassy: but it proved of little utility to us, as the whole retinue seemed to feel a natural preference for our own, notwithstanding the superior magnificence of the one offered us, and particularly of the tent provided for the ambassador, on which were lavished the most valuable decorations; that, without exaggeration, might be estimated at 30,000 piastres *. The tents of this camp differed from ours not only in their beauty and magnificence, but in the circular form of their upper part, those of our camp being pointed at the top.

The next day the marshal of the embassy, baron de Corf, with other officers belonging to it, was sent to Constantinople, to announce our arrival to the grand visir, who presented them with superb embroidered handkerchiefs and many other valuable articles. The next evening they returned to the camp highly satisfied with the distin-

* A piece of money of about the value of four shillings and four pence. This coin is fabricated in Spain and in the West Indies, and is very current in the Levant.

guished reception they had met with. Towards noon some Turkish messengers brought us preserves, fruits, and other refreshments of the same nature, on wooden dishes of a circular form. This had before happened to us during our journey. To these presents they had added a quantity of melons and arbouses *. This last fruit, which is here very common, as well as in all the provinces of Turkey, is of a very agreeable and refreshing quality. They grow in great abundance, and almost without any care. We found a great quantity of them also in Moldavia. The fields and all the high roads are covered with them, without any endeavours being used for their cultivation. The melons they gave us were surrounded with a thick green rind, and the internal parts of them were of a reddish colour, and abundantly filled with delicious juice.

In the afternoon we were visited by the first dragoman of the Porte, and the grand master of the ceremonies. These are the first officers of the court, which, in general,

* See the second note in the beginning of this work.

has a greater number of persons attached to it than any other of Europe. The most trivial charge affords a place for an officer. There exists here an establishment in which these officers are educated, and from which they are taken when they are wanted for the service of the grand signior. This establishment is particularly consecrated to the children of the Christians who are taken prisoners in war, or violently torn from their families in time of peace. The sultans find it favourable to their interest to attach persons of this description to their service; who, ignorant of their country, their parents, and their native religion, have no will but his, and are entirely devoted to his person.

Towards the evening we walked to the town of St. Stephans, which is very agreeably situated at half a league distant from our camp, and by the sea-side. It is an inconsiderable place, with narrow streets, and its houses for the most part very high. During the two days we were encamped in this neighbourhood, we received many visits from Constantinople. The most distin-

guished persons were the emperor's vice-legate, and the Prussian and Neapolitan ambassadors.

Our grand entry into this capital was fixed for the seventh of October. As it had almost constantly rained on the preceding days, we were apprehensive of unfavourable weather; but to our great satisfaction it suddenly changed, and we had the most beautiful and agreeable day we could possibly desire. Care had been taken to erect a Turkish camp for us near Constantinople; and nothing was forgotten in its arrangement that could announce the magnificence of those who had ordered it.

The tents, all circular at the top, as I have already remarked, were furnished with the handsomest sofas and cushions, in the Turkish manner. The greatest part of the inhabitants, attracted by curiosity to the place, were dressed, some in their habits of ceremony, others were under tents, and a great number were either on horseback or on foot.

Some hours after our arrival in the camp, the chiaoux-pacha and other Turkish noblemen came to pay their court to the ambas-

sador. Towards noon we had a grand gala in the Turkish manner. Before the sofas, on which we were seated perfectly at our ease, was placed a round table covered with a quantity of Turkish dishes, which might possibly be very excellent, but which we did not find to our taste. At two o'clock we rose from table. Our ambassador received as a present a great number of fine horses, all covered with rich trappings and other harnessings of equal value. When each person was mounted on the horse destined for him, we set out in the same number as the Janissaries who accompanied us. At the head of the procession were our musicians, our infantry, and all our domestics in full livery. After them followed the archdeacon or grand almoner in a most magnificent state coach, and followed by a detachment of hussars. Next succeeded the chancellor mounted on a beautiful horse, and last the ambassador himself escorted by all the cavalry. This procession occupied nearly half a league of ground. It was very curious to observe the singular variety of the Russian and Turkish costumes: the

regularity of the march of our troops, the beauty of their regimentals, the martial yet harmonious style of the music, formed a striking contrast to the confused arrangement of the Janissaries proceeding pell-mell, and whose dress presented the most singular variety of colours; some wearing helmets or turbans ornamented with plumes, others with shoes and stockings, or in pantaloons. After half an hour's march, during which we were shaded on each side by a wood of cypress filled with Greek monuments, we entered the suburbs of Fanal. Its streets are short and narrow, the houses very high on each side. We perceived at the windows the pale and meagre faces of Jews and Greeks. Galata, the place where the princes of these last generally reside, offered us nothing agreeable or cheerful; nor was the double file of Janissaries heavy armed, in the middle of which we proceeded, at all calculated to enliven the picture. From Galata we advanced towards the suburb of Fiub, where we passed near a mosque surrounded with high walls, which give it the appearance of a fort. It

is in this place that each sultan girds himself with the sabre of Mahomet, when he ascends the throne.

After leaving this suburb, we entered a cool and fertile valley washed by a small river, the banks of which are planted with cypress. Here we halted, and found a great number of Turkish inns and many handsome houses. The day was declining when we ascended a high mountain, whose summit we attained with the greatest difficulty. As the night approached, we found a detachment of Russians with torches, who lighted us on each side. It was near seven o'clock when we entered Pera, and went through several of its streets, which were neither handsomer nor larger than those of the other suburb we had passed.

We at length arrived at our ambassador's hotel. The care and magnificence with which it was furnished caused us infinite surprise and astonishment. In all the apartments there was a profusion of cushions and divans* placed along the walls, and furnish-

* See a former note.

ed with the richest and scarcest materials. Large crystal lustres of an elegant and modern form lighted the apartments. Towards midnight a most splendid supper was served, which terminated the gala and also the fatigues of the day.

CHAP. V.

Arrival at Constantinople, and the first Audience of the Ambassador.

IF it has ever happened to any of the persons who read to the end of my work, to wander during six months on the high roads before obtaining the object they had in view; if in the course of their journey they have been shut up in a carriage drawn at a slow pace by oxen, exposed to the burning rays of the sun, suffocated by the dust, torn by thorns and brambles, and horribly jolted by the roughness of the roads; if during the greatest part of the nights they have been under tents incapable of defending them from the torrents of rain which poured down upon them; if when exhausted with wearines sand fatigue they have experienced the vexation of being awakened by troublesome insects and reptiles; or if they have passed abruptly through the extremes of heat and cold, and supported the intemperance

of the seasons; if in the course of their travels they have been inconvenienced with occurrences of this nature, they may perhaps form a just idea of the delight I experienced when I got out of my bed for the first time after our arrival at Constantinople. I was so enchanted with the reflexion that I was no longer under the necessity of occupying myself with preparations for travelling, that I thought of nothing but eating the excellent breakfast that waited for me; and this idea caused me additional joy, when, from the window of the apartment I shared with some of my companions, I beheld the most enchanting spectacle in the world. It is a generally acknowledged truth, that Constantinople is more delightfully situated than any other town in Europe, and that in this point of view she may dispute the preference with even Genoa or Naples. She is placed at the extremity of the celebrated Bosphorus of Thrace, which may be about half a league in length. It is by the Bosphorus that the Black Sea communicates with the sea of Marmora. On each side along its banks are a great number of gar-

dens and country-houses, in the arrangement and construction of which is conspicuous the taste of all nations, without even excepting the Chinese. The city rises in an amphitheatre, exhibiting an infinite number of mosques and towers. Its shores are in general planted with cypress and other trees, presenting a most varied and animated scene, from the quantity of persons who pass and repass, as differently habited as the occupations are various which conduct them thither. Before the town extends the sea of Marmora, whose immense and tranquil surface of water facilitates the view of numerous vessels of all sizes and from all countries; to say nothing of a prodigious quantity of handsome barges, and islands full of rocks, or covered with lively verdure, light-houses, and many other edifices. The scene is also embellished by the coasts of Asia, enriched with hills and interspersed with country-houses, delightful gardens, and clumps of trees, in addition to which appears in the neighbourhood the large town of Scutari, presenting a very gratifying perspective.

However great the pleasure I might have

experienced in enjoying the grandeur of this magnificent picture, I was for some time abridged of this gratification. The duties of my place detained me at the hotel of the ambassador, to receive the visits of other ambassadors resident in Constantinople, and to do the office of an interpreter to the first dragoman of the Porte, who came to pay his compliments to M. Kotusow on the part of the grand visir. Among other rich presents he made him, was a snuff-box and a Turkish tea-table, each ornamented with precious stones; to say nothing of several pieces of cloth of gold and silver, of the greatest beauty. These visits engaged absolutely the whole of my time for some days after our arrival: for the highest ceremony was constantly observed on each side; and the two ministers, both he who paid, and he who received a visit, considered it an indispensable duty to assume the greatest degree possible of parade and pomp. In the evening of the 17th of October, the anniversary of the birth of Mahomet, I enjoyed an exhibition of another, but not less pleasing kind. An illumination took place on all the

domes of the mosques, and the steeples of the city. The great quantity of lamps reflected by the Bosphorus produced so great a refulgence, that, notwithstanding the profound obscurity of the night, we discovered distinctly the slip of ground on which the seraglio is situated, as well as the straits and the coasts of Asia.

A few days after, I had an opportunity of seeing the grand sultan and all his court go to the mosque of Achmet. I went with several of my companions, about six o'clock in the morning, to the quay, and got into a barque or galley-boat, which soon conducted us to a spot very near to this mosque. As soon as we had landed, we proceeded through streets much larger and cleaner than those of the suburbs, towards the Atmeidan or Hippodrome*, a place of vast extent, and

* The Hippodrome of Constantinople is a large circus, begun by the emperor Severus, and finished by Constantine. This place, which, as formerly, is used for horse-racing, is more than four hundred paces long, and an hundred wide. It took the name of Hippodrome under the Greek emperors; and the Turks in calling it Atmeidan have done little more than translated its name into their language, for *at* with them signifies a horse, and *meidân* a place.

remarkable for the Egyptian antiquities it contains. The janissaries were already drawn up in two lines, through which the procession was to pass. We witnessed this spectacle at our ease, from the house of the capigi-bacha*, who had accompanied us in the course of our journey. As he was obliged to join the suite of the sultan, he left us, after giving his steward orders to offer us sherbet, coffee, and pipes.

A great number of the guards of the seraglio, called *divan-tschauschi*, opened the march; then followed several officers of the court, some on horseback and others on foot, and each holding in his hand the insignia of his dignity. We particularly distinguished the achmedschi-bacha, or grand master of the kitchen, by his long robe of black leather, which was decorated with a great number of little buttons of silver. He had a large sabre hanging by his side, with different articles of

* The capigis hold the office of keeping the exterior doors of the grand-signior's palace. They must not be confounded with the capigis-bachas, a kind of chamberlain, whose office it is to execute the orders he receives from the sultan.

kitchen utensils. As his dress was extremely heavy, two janissaries, who accompanied him, from time to time supported it. At a little distance from him appeared the grand visir, mounted on a magnificent horse: his white turban and long grey beard, together with his advanced age, gave him an appearance equally solemn and respectable. Behind these followed the battagis, who form the second guard of the seraglio, and who are easily distinguished by their green caps in the form of a sugar-loaf. Next followed the black eunuchs, having at their head the kislar-aga, their chief. This is one of the most important officers of the state, on account of the facility he derives from his office for constantly seeing and conversing with the grand-signior. This officer is also the inspector of the mosques, a place of the highest importance. Behind the black eunuchs appeared the kekabdar-aga, holding in his hand a little footstool of gold, to assist the sultan in getting on horseback. He was followed by the schennegi-aga, who carried two small folding chairs of the same metal, for his highness occasionally to sit on. There

were besides a quantity of domestics belonging to the court, the enumeration of whom would be too tedious. At length appeared the grand-signior, surrounded by his body-guards, the beitschis, carrying helmets ornamented with large plumes of feathers, forming a kind of grove, in the midst of which was placed this despot. Behind him, on horseback, appeared the seliktar-aga, his sword-bearer. Another Turk of distinguished rank, and forming part of the retinue, threw money among the people. The procession closed with a detachment of white eunuchs, and with a great number of Turks on horseback, attached to the court.

After seeing the sultan pass in his greatest magnificence, we paid a visit to a Turk of our acquaintance called Ismael Pacha. He received us with the sincerest friendship, and allowed us to enjoy at our ease, from the windows of his house, the charming view of the sea and that of the fort of Seven Towers *. Some days after, the return of

* The name of a fortress of a circular form, used as a state-prison, like the Tower of London, and formerly the

the Turkish fleet, which arrived from the Archipelago unexpectedly, afforded me one of the finest spectacles I had ever beheld. I was so advantageously situated at the window for seeing this fleet, that not one of its evolutions escaped my notice. The view of so many men of war in the open sea, at the head of which was the capitan-pacha * in a three-masted vessel, the noise of the cannon, which fired in volleys as the fleet passed before the seraglio, the motion and tumult of the multitude assembled on the shores, the number of barques flying before these vessels, altogether formed a picture which I enjoyed with a sort of intoxicating enchantment.

I did not content myself with admiring

Bastille in France. In this place the Turkish government confines the ambassadors and agents of the powers with whom it is at war.

* High-admiral. He holds the third place in the empire, and has the same power at sea as the grand-visir on land. It was Soliman the Second who instituted this charge in favour of the celebrated Barbarossa, and attached to it an absolute authority over all the navy officers, over whom the capitan-pacha has the right of life and death, from the moment he has passed the straits of the Dardanelles.

from my window the beauty of the spectacle which on all sides met my eye. I carefully explored the charming country I had already descried at a distance. With some of my companions I set out towards the coast of Asia. Three caïques * very handsomely decorated, which waited for us on the shore, conducted us in less than a quarter of an hour to Scutari. We passed very near an island full of rocks, in which is a white tower called Leander's Tower. They keep large fires in it during the night, for lighting the ships which sail near it. We had no sooner attained the shore than, accompanied by the janissaries who had been appointed our escort, we mounted horses, to the number of twenty, which had been ordered for us. After passing through a large town, which might contain about an hundred thousand inhabitants, we reached the foot of Mount Olympus, now called by the Turks Burgurli. It was not without great

* These caïques are long narrow boats, extremely light, carrying two or three oars, and seldom so many as four. They very easily upset; and it requires equal skill and attention on the part of the rowers to prevent this accident.

difficulty that we reached the top of this mountain; but we were recompensed for our trouble and fatigue by the delightful and extensive view we there enjoyed. Scutari at our feet, Constantinople before us, an infinite number of vessels floating on the sea, a quantity of charming islands contributing to the embellishment of the landscape, each bank of the sea adorned with country houses, belonging to the sultan, to foreign ambassadors, and to various Turkish noblemen; to say nothing of the villages, the gardens, and woods of cypress, which abound in this place; such is the feeble sketch of the charming picture which now presented itself to our view. On our return from this excursion we took another road, in which we discovered many points of view not less interesting.

All these different spectacles were followed by a grand audience given to the embassy by the grand-visir on the $\frac{2}{5}$ October, November, and on the $\frac{1}{12}$ November by the grand-signior, in each of which the most rigid punctilios were observed. The Turks are so strongly attached to every thing that relates to the ancient customs established among

them, that they did not omit the most trivial circumstance. Some days before we made this ostentatious visit to the grand-visir, we sent him the usual presents. They consisted of different vases of gold and silver, of valuable furs, and watches richly ornamented with diamonds. All these presents had been exposed to the view of the public in the hotel of the ambassador, some days before they were sent. On the day of audience we assembled at his residence by eight o'clock in the morning, in full dress. We had not been there long, when the capigi-pacha, who, as I have already said, had accompanied us in our journey, made his appearance. He was followed by one of the principal officers of the guard of the seraglio; who, as well as himself, was decorated with a white turban, and came to announce to the ambassador that the grand-visir was ready to give him audience.

We received these two deputies after the Turkish manner, offering them coffee and refreshments. Towards eleven o'clock, we placed ourselves in lines according to our rank, and proceeded on foot to Pera and

Galata, in our way to the quay, where several handsome sloops waited for us; that for the ambassador being fitted up with blue silk.

As soon as we entered Stamboul *, properly so called, we assembled at a place near to the quay, and, mounting the horses that had been prepared for us, advanced towards the palace of the grand-visir, where we were received with loud acclamations on the part of the Turks. The number of persons in the front courts and in the apartments was so considerable, that we had the greatest difficulty to force our way through them. Our ambassador had no sooner put his foot on the threshold of the door of the audience-chamber, than the grand-visir entered by an opposite door; and, after reciprocally saluting each other in profound silence, they advanced together to their respective places. After this the ambassador presented his credentials to the visir,

* This city, built in 326, on the spot where stood the ancient Byzantium, by Constantine, from whom the word Constantinople was derived, is called Stamboul by the Turks. This name is a corruption of the Greek εις την πολιν, *to go towards the town.* The Turks have employed this expression for the name of the town itself.

who received them standing, and put them on the seat next him; then one of the secretaries to the embassy delivered to his mechtupschi, or secretary, the diploma of his excellency count Iwan Andreitsch Osterman. The mechtupschi gave it to the reis-effendi *, who placed it on a cushion behind the visir. This presentation of credentials over, the visir and the ambassador again seated themselves at the same moment, the visir on a sofa, and the ambassador in an elbow-chair directly opposite to him. The confidential secretary M. Chwastow seated himself on a stool a little behind the ambassador; the kiaja-bey, or deputy of the grand-visir, was to the right of M. Kotusow, and the reis-effendi on his left, at some distance from the visir.

After the compliments and congratulations customary among the Turks, the ambassador declared the motive of his embassy; and in a discourse equally eloquent and polite, explained with dignity the plea-

* An officer of justice belonging to the court of the grand-signior. He is chancellor and first secretary of the Ottoman empire, and, besides, minister for foreign affairs.

sure her imperial majesty experienced in assuring the visir through him of her fidelity in accomplishing her part of the treaty of peace that had just been concluded; adding, that she solicited of him to obtain of the grand sultan, his master, the earliest audience possible for the ambassador, who was commissioned to represent her in the court of his highness. The dragoman of the Porte, brother to the hospodar of Moldavia, translated this discourse to the visir, who, by the same interpreter, replied to our ambassador, that the grand sultan, his master, had commanded him to assure our gracious sovereign of his perfect friendship, and of the sincere desire he felt to maintain the happy intelligence re-established between them. Immediately after this, commenced the ceremonies customary upon these occasions. Dried fruits, sherbet, and rose-water, were presented, as well as the calumet, which the ambassador offered to the officers of his suite, after first using it himself. They then distributed the presents, which consisted of the most beautiful pelisses. The ambassador put on his without quitting his chair; then, both rising

up and saluting each other in the customary manner, the visir took leave of the ambassador, who returned to his hotel with his brilliant and numerous retinue in the same order which had been observed in going.

The audience of the grand-signior, which took place some days after, was accompanied with the same ceremonies, excepting that we began our march towards the seraglio at an earlier hour. At four o'clock in the morning we assembled at the ambassador's, and at day-break advanced with equal order and magnificence, on the horses which had been equipped for the purpose, towards Stamboul. Arrived at the first gate of the seraglio, we found it guarded by a large number of troops and janissaries, dressed in their habits of ceremony, and placed in two ranks, in the middle of which we advanced. After waiting some moments,—which on such occasions is customary with the Turks, who think that by these means they give a high idea of their grandeur and dignity,—we went through two gates, and were introduced into a large court, planted with cypress-trees, at the ex-

tremity of which we perceived the palace of the grand-signior. Having entered a hall richly decorated, situated in the front part of the buildings composing this edifice, we found in it the grand-visir, with the capitan-pacha, seated on a form covered with green cloth, and employed in the distribution of justice. All foreign ambassadors are obliged to wait a considerable time in this hall, whilst these two officers dispatch different affairs, receive the complaints of the subjects, and settle their disputes. Their motive in this is, to give strangers a favorable idea of the Turkish government, and of the strictness with which justice is administered. We remarked, that they were assisted by two Turks dressed in rich habits, and who had numerous attendants; and that all complaints and petitions were first put into the hands of these two Turks, who afterwards delivered them to the grand-visir and to the capitan-pacha. The sitting had lasted some time, when, at length, the grand-visir dispatched the reis-effendi to the grand-signior with some words he wrote to his highness, demanding his permission to introduce the ambassador.

The reis-effendi returning some moments after to the hall with a favorable answer to the request that had been made, tables were immediately furnished; and, after treating the embassy in the Turkish manner, pelisses and cafetans* were presented to the most distinguished persons of the embassy. The ambassador partook of the refreshments *tête-à-tête* with the grand-visir, and put on his fur pelisse a little later than the other persons. When he had reached half way towards the sultan's apartments, he was presented with a stool decorated with gold cloth, on which he remained seated till the moment when the visir led him to the apartment of the grand-signior. At the door of the audience-chamber, in which was the sultan, were ranged in lines the principal bostangis, holding the presents of her imperial majesty. As soon as the ambassador had entered this room, the capigi-pacha took him by the arm, whilst

* The cafetan is a robe of distinction in use among the Turks, and is the article generally used by the grand-signior as a present to the persons he wishes to distinguish; particularly to ambassadors and other persons who are presented to him.

the pelisses and cafetans were distributing to the other officers of his suite. After three times saluting the grand-signior, who was seated on his throne, he approached and addressed him with a discourse exactly of the same nature as that he had already pronounced to his first minister.

Having given to the capitan-pacha the empress's letter, he presented it to the visir, who delivered it to the sultan, who placed it by his side, at the same time saluting the ambassador by an inclination of the head. When he had finished speaking, he pronounced some words aloud to the grand-visir, in reply to the harangue of the ambassador. The dragoman of the court having interpreted it to M. de Kotusow, the latter again bowed to the sultan, and retired in the same order and parade with which he had entered.

When all these visits were over, I began to think of some recompense for the weariness and inconvenience they had caused me; and, accordingly, recommenced my usual excursions, exploring the most remarkable objects in the charming environs of Constantinople. Each day presented us

with new subjects of curiosity. On our return from a little excursion I made on the sea, with several of my companions, we visited the Atmeidan, or Hippodrome, I have already mentioned. We found ourselves unexpectedly in a large square; and, having perceived a small flight of steps which conducted to a spacious subterranean building, the discovery piqued our curiosity. We descended some steps to discover whither they conducted. What was our surprise to find ourselves in a vast arched chamber, in which was a great number of artisans employed in preparing silk! Every arch was supported by several high stone pillars of good workmanship. The whole of this edifice exhibits a very fine and striking spectacle. It is said to have been founded as far back as in the fourth century, and that it was built by Constantine to serve as barracks for his troops. One cannot observe without admiration the excellent condition in which it appears, or conceive by what miracle it has escaped the ravages of time for the space of fourteen hundred years.

The $\frac{2}{6}\frac{\text{November,}}{\text{December,}}$ the anniversary of her imperial majesty, gave occasion to a magnificent gala in the hotel of the ambassador. After the celebration of divine service, in which we assisted with great pomp in the Greek church, a very splendid repast was given, at which were present all the foreign ambassadors and agents. It continued to the end of the day, when the company was increased by a very considerable number of persons of rank and distinction, who arrived from Pera.

The apartments were scarcely large enough to contain this brilliant concourse. All the women were covered with diamonds, and other jewels. This is a sort of display to which so much importance is attached in this country, that a woman carries on her person her whole fortune, and sometimes the value of even twice her fortune. The capigi-pacha, our old friend, and other Turks of distinction, were present at this gala.

The enchanting *coup-d'œil* produced by this numerous and brilliant assemblage made a very lively impression on the mus-

sulmans, who are accustomed to keep their women constantly in retirement. By degrees they forgot Mahomet and his prohibition, and partook of the delicious wines which were handed about, drinking to the health of the prophet, and ending by taking a part in all the pleasures of the festival. The walls of the apartment were hung with garlands and crowns of flowers; and the hotel, both in the inside and on the outside, was most tastefully illuminated. In the front were several high pyramids decorated with an infinite number of lamps; in the middle of which appeared the arms of the Russian empire, and the initials of the empress's name. The ball lasted till midnight, and was succeeded by another splendid repast, which terminated the entertainment, to the perfection of which nothing was wanting but more favourable weather; for the rain which fell did great injury to the illuminations, and diminished the effect of this charming exhibition. The capitan-pacha, and the papadgi-pacha, the favourite of the grand-signior, being informed of the brilliant preparations made by the ambassador

for this gala, came *incognito* from Constantinople to partake of the numerous diversions that were to take place.

The ambassador was not the only person who gave a gala; all the great officers of the Porte imbibed the contagion of this gallantry, and in their turn offered similar homage to this illustrious stranger; and their entertainments consisted also of the most magnificent preparations. The grand-visir gave the example; and a few days after the capitan-pacha imitated, or rather surpassed, every thing of this sort that had already taken place. To give the reader a just idea of the visits, and all the circumstances that attended these galas, I shall insert here the description I find in my journal of the entertainment given by the capitan-pacha, and the reception we met with.

About seven o'clock in the morning the embassy ranged itself in marching order on the quay, and then proceeded towards Stamboul. On the spot where we disembarked, we found a great number of horses richly caparisoned, which served to conduct us slowly towards the residence of the capitan-

pacha. The streets we passed through in our way were lined on each side by marines and sailors dressed in short white cloaks. We were received in an apartment hung with the richest silk, and surrounded with sofas covered with satin, on one of which the capitan-pacha was seated in the Turkish manner, that is to say, with his legs crossed under him. He was distinguished from the persons who surrounded him by a long green robe, and by a poignard decked with diamonds, and supported by a belt of no less value. This officer is very much beloved, and passes for a man of great worth. He has the advantage of having married one of the nieces of the grand-signior, a privilege which cost him very dear, since he is often obliged to acknowledge it by the payment of large sums of money. Towards ten o'clock we sat down to dinner, which was extremely abundant; but we had neither knives, forks, nor spoons. This at first caused us a little embarrassment; but, seeing that it was not possible to obtain a better remedy, we had recourse to the means with which nature had furnished us, and used our fingers instead of them. We

were also obliged to refrain from drinking wine. The Turks, notwithstanding the prohibition of Mahomet, are very fond of this liquor; but they never venture to infringe his injunction in the presence of so many witnesses; in the narrow circle of their friends they are less scrupulous, and I had more than once an opportunity of remarking with what pleasure they sacrifice to the god of the vintage, and partake of his benefits. Instead of wine, we were served with sherbet, with which necessity compelled us to be contented.

No sooner was the repast finished, than different games commenced. About thirty Turks appeared holding in their hands white sticks, about four feet in length, called *djerid**, and mounted on superb horses, chiefly of the Arabian breed. Among these Turks were some of a pretty advanced age; but who, notwithstanding their long white beards,

* This *djerid*, about four feet long, is of a very slight kind of wood, such as the willow, or date-tree, and is used to avoid the accidents which might happen in this kind of tournament.

did not display less agility than the young men with whom they entered the lists.

The art of this kind of tournament, which is called *girette*, or *djerid*, consists in throwing the stick with sufficient address to strike the adversary, and in avoiding that which he darts in return. The tilters keep in a circle, full gallop, and pick up the sticks which have fallen on the ground. This game, which by its novelty and dexterity greatly amused us, lasted about an hour.

To this exercise succeeded combats, in which each performer was almost naked, and had his body rubbed with oil, like the ancient Greek and Roman gladiators, for the purpose of giving more flexibility to his members, and enabling him to elude his adversary with the greater facility. This contest lasted till one of the combatants had gained a victory over his rival. The dexterity with which each man used his strength rendered the decision a long time doubtful, till at length one of them by a stratagem, or rather by a sudden twist, contrived to vanquish his competitor. I remarked amongst them two young Arabians,

whose robust and muscular conformation generally enabled them to be victorious.

These spirited Ottomans did not confine themselves merely to gymnastic exercises in their endeavours to give us an idea of their dexterity and martial courage. These champions were succeeded by a band of comedians, or rather by a farce equally ridiculous and pitiful. A poor Jew, very miserably dressed, appeared on the scene, and was the principal actor, who excited the applauses and risibility of the spectators. This is a proof what little progress the Turks have made, even among their superior classes, in matters of taste and information.

About half an hour after the conclusion of these entertainments appeared some Turkish dancers, to give us in their turn a specimen of their skill. They entered the apartment in which the ambassador and the capitan-pacha were seated. They began their performance with a kind of ballet called the *cenghi*, or the *janna*, the uniform and ill-measured movements of which did not certainly deserve the applauses of European connoisseurs. They

were accompanied by very melancholy music played by dervises. These diversions were terminated by rope-dancing, which was executed with considerable grace and dexterity. As night approached we prepared for retiring. M. Kotusow, on the part of the capitan-pacha, then received presents, consisting of a superb ring studded with diamonds, a beautiful Arabian horse estimated at six thousand piastres, and a large quantity of richly embroidered Turkish handkerchiefs. A short time after we resumed the usual order and proceeded towards our hotel.

The next day, $\frac{22}{3}$ November, December, another gala was given by the kiay *, or deputy to the grand-visir. It was not, however, so brilliant as that which had been given by the capitan-pacha; but our reception and amusements were pretty much the same. Dinner was served in a garden paved with small stones of divers colours, in which was an open pavilion supported by columns, and surrounded

* This officer is also called kaimacan. He is only in office in the absence of the grand-visir, on which occasion he governs Constantinople.

with a range of sofas furnished with elegant and beautiful cushions. A great number of fountains dispersed in this garden contributed also to its embellishment.

Some days after these entertainments the ambassador received some magnificent presents from the sultana Validé, mother of the present emperor. They were brought to him by the first dragoman of the Porte, who accompanied them with the compliments and assurances of friendship usual on such occasions.

In the visit that we paid to the aga of the janissaries, every thing was conducted in the same manner as has already been related. The house of this officer enjoys the privilege of being ornamented with a steeple, that commands a view of the whole coast of Asia, which forms a most ravishing prospect. We met with very few objects capable of interesting our curiosity in the visits we afterwards made to the defterdar or grand-treasurer, and to the reis-effendi. The interior of their houses exhibits luxury and magnificence in the same proportion as

the external part of them is remarkable for plainness and simplicity. Gold, rich cloths, pearls, and precious stones, abound in them with a profusion difficult to describe. We remarked in the house of the latter a small Turkish library, apparently composed of manuscripts; for it is well known that there are few printed books among the Turks. Knowledge would be considered as a dangerous acquisition by so despotic a government, which becomes offended with reasonings and investigation, and under which the education of youth is confined to inspiring the mind with fear, and exacting the most abject servility.

All the galas and festivals given by the great officers of the Porte terminated towards the beginning of December, and made room for those which were given by several foreign ambassadors. These last treated us in the French manner, which we infinitely preferred to that of the Turks. Notwithstanding all these occasions of dissipation, the ambassador did not employ less activity in regard to every object relating to his mission. Before

the end of the year the epoch of our departure was already fixed. The respective appointment of the two ministers, Russian and Turkish, had been reserved for the 20th of April 1794; and the environs of Dubassar, a frontier town, was the spot chosen for the place of rendezvous. The idea of our approaching departure caused me the more pleasure, as our journey back was to conduct us through the cantons of Moldavia, in the neighbourhood of the Danube; by which means I was in hopes to satisfy in some measure the extreme desire I entertained to explore in different directions a country which had so much interested me. I should have been highly gratified to have been able to accompany several persons of the embassy, who, to avoid the deserts of Turkey, were to take the road through the Crimea. Nothing would have been more agreeable to me than to admire the antiquities and fine productions of nature which are there so abundant; but I had the mortification of not being able to gratify this inclination.

However, as our residence at Constanti-

nople was protracted to the middle of March 1794, I took advantage of this circumstance to make a further examination of the curiosities it contains. The concise details I intend to give of them will be the subject of the following chapter.

CHAP. VI.

Curiosities in Constantinople and its Environs. Our Departure from this City.

THE winter was become so severe by the beginning of December, that I was obliged to have recourse to a chaffing-dish to heat my chamber, instead of a stove, a thing rarely to be met with in the houses at Constantinople. This rigour of the season made me for a moment apprehensive that I should not be able to execute my project; but towards the middle of this month the weather became so fine, that I determined to take advantage of so fortunate a circumstance, and to employ the few days I was to remain in this capital in a pursuit the most agreeable to my feelings.

I set out in a fine morning about nine o'clock, accompanied by four persons belonging to the embassy. As we proposed making our first visit to Scutari, we em-

barked in a caïque, and went on shore in the island which contains Leander's Tower, directly off the coast of Asia. Two bostangis, charged with the care of this tower, conducted us to the highest part of it. The view of the sea, of the seraglio, of the city itself, and of the Dardanelles, forms a most singular and ravishing spectacle; but it is a pleasure which has already cost dear to a number of mussulmans. This tower is less celebrated for its antiquity and elevation than for the object to which it is destined. It is here that the grand-signior holds in confinement the kislar-agas who have had the misfortune to incur his displeasure. Their fate in this exile is soon decided. They oftener receive the intelligence of being condemned to death than that of being pardoned. Very near this tower, which is of an immeasurable height, as well as the greatest part of the Turkish edifices, is another of much smaller size, called the light-house, and which, in fact, serves to contain the fires that are constantly kept during the night, for the purpose of lighting the ships which float in these parts. The

highest part of the inclosure is constructed with squares of glass, so that the fire which is every evening made in it, on a column of stone, is visible on all sides, and serves to indicate the situation of the port to the ships which arrive from the Black Sea.

We were scarcely re-imbarked in our caïques, in order to continue our researches, before we perceived on the surface of the water a prodigious quantity of dolphins, whose number and incessant motion announced an approaching change of weather. In fact, we had no sooner arrived at Scutari, than a very heavy rain fell, and continued for some hours. The narrow streets and niggardly appearance of the houses in this town were very little alluring; and we soon reached its extremity, where we found a beautiful cypress wood, which serves for a burying ground to the Turks. We remarked several tombs of rather distinguished appearance, the inscriptions of which afforded me the following information: when the Turks made themselves masters of the Greek empire, they did not content themselves with merely destroying every monument of

the arts, and of architecture, but they seized and carried off a large part of the wrecks, and transported them to Asia, where they used them for ornamenting their tombs. This is the origin of the great number of fine mausoleums which are seen at Scutari, decorated with marble columns, which are the labour of the Greeks.

In general, the Turks regard Asia as their original country, and prefer it to all their possessions in Europe. This is also the reason why the greatest part of them, after their death, are transported to Scutari. On their death-bed they consider it as a privilege, and a motive of consolation, to carry out of the world with them the certainty that they shall be buried in the country of their ancestors. At some distance from this wood we remarked the ruins of an ancient palace, almost half a league in circumference, and which before the taking of Constantinople sometimes served for the residence of the Ottoman emperors. Nothing more of the ancient magnificence of this edifice is remaining than some columns, statues, and foundations of walls. At half a league from thence we reached

the Cape of Chalcedon, and a village of the same name situated near the sea. We here rested ourselves during a short time, in hopes that the rain would cease; but, seeing that it rather increased, we resolved on returning in the same track by which we came.

After a few days, however, we had again fine weather. The verdure, which on all sides embellished the fields and neighbouring meadows, though we were now only in the middle of December, encouraging the desire I felt to make new excursions, I embarked with some of my companions, and pursued a direction along the Bosphorus, to enjoy the delightful view presented by the coasts of these straits, on which are situated a number of handsome country-houses. In particular, we remarked a palace destined for a country residence for Selim, and which was now building. Further on we perceived the country-house that the capitan-pacha owns, in right of his wife, niece to the grand-signior, as I have already remarked. These straits are broader and narrower in different places; the water which is compressed in one of these narrow passages is called the Devil's

current, and runs with such rapidity, that at a certain distance from thence we were obliged to take in our sail, and have our vessel drawn with cords. In another passage of the straits, you see on one side the *Rumeli Hissar*, (Fort, or Castle, of Europe;) and on the other, the *Andoli Hissar*, (Strong Castle of Asia Minor.) Both the one and the other are defended by a great number of old towers, and batteries of sufficient strength to hinder the most powerful fleet from entering the Bosphorus.

On leaving this place the prospect becomes still finer and more extensive, and is increased by the country-houses of the foreign ambassadors, built at a small distance from the shore, the grandeur and beauty of which exhibit the most varied and agreeable picture. That of the Russian ambassador is one of the handsomest and most considerable. Leaving the straits, we perceived at a distance two other castles which protect the entrance of the Bosphorus; and at the extremity of the horizon we discovered the waters of the Black Sea. Several large ships in full sail before the wind added still

more to the beauty of this magnificent spectacle.

Towards noon we landed, and, having taken a guide, advanced on foot towards Belgrade, where the foreign ambassadors formerly resided during the summer. After walking half an hour, we met with a large aqueduct, composed of pretty high walls, and supported by several arcades. It was constructed about sixty years ago by a grand-visir, who was beheaded for incurring too much expense in building this edifice. As night was advancing, and we were still far from Belgrade, we were obliged to renounce the project we had formed of visiting this town. We therefore returned to our abode by the way we came, enchanted with our little excursion, and with the tranquillity we had not for a moment ceased to enjoy.

In the course of my rambles, I have had frequent occasions of experiencing the politeness of the Turks, which proves to me that this nation is extremely well disposed and inclined to oblige, and that the climate alone is the cause of the idleness and indifference with which they are reproached. The

Turk, when offended, or provoked to jealousy, becomes terrible, and nothing but the blood of his adversary can calm the passion which transports him. During my excursions in the environs of Constantinople, I was frequently a witness of the obliging and hospitable propensities of this people. The first Turk I applied to when I wanted directions in regard to the road I was to take, always offered himself as a guide, and with the same readiness presented to me a part of his food or refreshments.

When we had examined the greatest part of the curiosities in the neighbourhood of Constantinople, our next object was to discover those which remained to be seen in the town itself. With this view we profited of an excellent occasion that presented itself for gratifying our wishes. The grand-signior having granted to the Russian embassy a written permission to examine minutely whatever might be interesting in this capital, the most curious amateurs of our suite assembled at the ambassador's, and on the morning of the $\frac{13}{14}$th of December we advanced towards what is properly called Constantinople, escorted by the Turks, who had received an order to

accompany us, and by a great number of foreigners, who were eager to take advantage of so singular and fortunate an occasion.

The church of St. Sophia, or rather the mosque of that name, situated at the entrance of the seraglio, was the first object which attracted our curiosity. Arrived at the doors of it, we were each of us presented with a pair of yellow slippers, which we were to put on before entering the interior of the temple, which is of a prodigious size. The quantity of steeples belonging to it gives it an air of magnificence, which excites equal respect and admiration. This edifice was built in the sixth century, under the emperor Justinian, by the two architects Antennicus and Isidorus. It is built entirely of marble, and decorated with an infinite number of large columns skilfully laboured; is two hundred and seventy feet long, and two hundred and forty wide. It is pretended that it has a subterranean communication with the sea, which allows of small vessels advancing as far as the mosque. The arches, as well as the walls, are covered with mosaic

productions of perfect workmanship, and with paintings which represent the twelve apostles. The first are falling to decay, and the pieces which detach themselves are carefully collected by the Turks, and sold to foreigners.

We next directed our course towards the mosque of Achmet. On the road we perceived the column of Theodosius the Great, now become black with age, and already half in ruins. There still exists on some of the remaining portions an account of the victories of this emperor. The pyramid, sixty feet in height, which, as well as the mosque, is situated in the Atmeidan, was brought from Egypt by order of Theodosius. This monument did not escape our attention. The mosque, having been built more recently, is in a more modern taste than the temple of St. Sophia; but it wants the respectable impression from the hand of time with which the first of these monuments is distinguished, and which is not its least considerable ornament.

The mosque of Soliman, which we next visited, is at a considerable distance from that

of Achmet; and is infinitely handsomer, and in a much more agreeable situation. This mosque commands the whole port, and a part of the coast of Asia.

We entered it at a time when an iman was preaching in a loud and articulate voice. He was surrounded by a certain number of auditors on their knees, and with their faces turned towards the east. We were quite astonished on finding, by our interpreter, that the preacher had all at once dismissed the subject of his discourse, and was now treating of the strangers who had just entered. He had been kind enough to exclude us without mercy from eternal happiness, in the picture he drew of us to his auditors, and which appeared to captivate all their attention. This idea, which was not very flattering or consoling to us, was fortunately soon succeeded by other objects, which, by degrees, destroyed the impression of such an apostrophe. Our conductor having led us into a very handsome chapel, by the side of the mosque, informed us that the grand sultans were interred there. In fact, we saw a great number of mausoleums, decorated with

turbans, and covered with mother of pearl. We were on this occasion told, that the imans or priests often express themselves, even in the presence of the grand-signior, with great boldness and freedom on the corruption of the manners of the court, and the abuses that were insinuating themselves into the government; and that the freedom of speech they use, and which occurs rarely in a state so subjected to despotism, has more than once produced the happiest effects on the mind of the sultan and of the great officers of state.

The Turkish mosques contain many interesting and curious objects for the lovers of antiquities; among others, many vases from ancient Egypt, from Athens, and from what is properly called Greece. We saw in the mosque of Soliman four columns, which we were told had been brought from Troy. Satiated, as it were, with the numberless curiosities we had met with on this day, we retired to our abodes, and consecrated its remaining portion to reflecting on the vicissitudes of fortune, and on the past grandeur of the nations whom these different monuments had recalled to our remembrance.

Some time after we formed the project of making an excursion on the water in the environs of Constantinople, and of profiting of the same opportunity for seeing, at least, the exterior of the seraglio, and the castle of the Seven Towers. On Friday the 17th of February, the weather being very fine, I determined to put my plan into execution. About eight o'clock in the morning I joined several friends; and, after going through a part of Pera and Galata, we proceeded to the quay, where we embarked. As the sea was very calm, we were soon at a distance from the town, and within view of the high mountains which border the coasts of Asia, which at this time were still partly covered with snow. A great number of edifices appearing on the two shores, and Leander's Tower, built on a rock in the middle of the sea, were the objects which first presented themselves to our view.

The port was filled with ships of all dimensions; and the eagerness and activity which prevailed, together with the majestic view of Constantinople, and the high walls which surround it, irresistibly attracted our

notice, and fixed our observation. When we were near the seraglio, we ordered the boatmen, who conducted our caïque, to take a direction nearer to the shore, as we wanted to see the port more at our leisure, as well as the country-houses of the sultan, which are built in the Chinese taste. The seraglio is concealed by a thick wood, and a great number of batteries, which defend the approach to it. Along the walls, which are very high, is a narrow path on the banks of the sea; but it is not permitted to a single mortal to enter it. These walls, with which the seraglio is environed, are supported by marble columns taken from the old Greek edifices. After losing sight of this palace, we discovered at the extremity of the town the castle of the Seven Towers, called in the Turkish language *Edikul.*

We quitted our caïque in this place to proceed on foot to the fort. In the narrow streets of the town through which we passed we saw some remains of ancient Greek edifices, of which only the walls are now existing. Our course having conducted us near several weaving manufactories, we en-

tered one of them to examine the manner in which the Turks fabricate this celebrated stuff, half-silk, and known by the name of *schari de Stamboul;* the beauty of which we greatly admired.

A short time after, we arrived at the foot of the castle of the Seven Towers. This fort is built near the sea, and is defended by high walls and towers, which prevent the view of any thing that passes within. We very much wished to penetrate as far as the first gate: but we did not dare to make an attempt of this sort, being acquainted with the rigorous orders given on this subject, and the little lenity shown by the Turks towards those who ventured to infringe them. Having gained one of the gates of the town, we thought it adviseable for our greater security to pass for Frenchmen; which enabled us to examine with greater facility the outside of this place. It is environed in the spot where we were by a ditch, and a triple wall, both of which are remains of the times of the Greeks, and which immediately brought to our recollection that the ancient Byzantium was a town of great strength;

but all the outworks which defended it are fallen to decay, and the ditches replaced by gardens and fruit-trees of every kind. We found along these ditches a wide paved road, which conducted us to a large opening made in the wall. We were told that this was the breach by which Mahomet II. had made his second entrance into Byzantium, which occasioned the loss of so much blood. A large stone, on which are still existing some Turkish characters, confirmed us in this belief. This wall continues a little further, and then terminates in the place where the fresh water communicates with the strait. As we had already visited the port in the morning, we returned on foot, and about four o'clock regained the suburb of Pera.

The affairs of the embassy being in a great measure finished, we began to think seriously of our departure. However, the whole of the month of February was passed in a succession of pleasures, before obtaining our audience of leave from the sultan. The ambassadors from foreign courts made every exertion to render the last week

of our ambassador's residence in Constantinople as agreeable as possible; and, from this moment, nothing was heard of but a succession of balls and masquerades, given by them on his account. Baron Herbert, the emperor's vice legate, set the example by giving a splendid ball, which was followed by another, given jointly by the ambassadors of Venice, Prussia, Naples, and others. Every day was distinguished by new amusements and galas. Some hundreds of striking masks, some of them in the Russian, Turkish, and Greek costume, and others in those of different nations, appeared at them, and formed an assemblage of company equally numerous and brilliant. Though these entertainments were given only on account of the persons attached to the foreign ambassadors, there appeared, however, at the Venetian ambassador's gala, a number of Turks who were attracted by curiosity to take a near view of an exhibition with the nature of which they were so perfectly unacquainted. They were at first a little surprised at the tone of hilarity and good-humour which prevailed in these as-

semblies, and especially at the mixture of men and women; the latter of whom, among the Turks, hold their coteries apart from the men, and never attempt to join in their amusements. Insensibly their gravity diminished, and they took by degrees a very active part in the enjoyments of the other guests.

The ball given by the Russian ambassador was not one of the least brilliant. His hotel was throughout illuminated.

The $\frac{21 \text{ February}}{4 \text{ March}}$, M. Kotschulci, in quality of successor to M. Kotusow, and plenipotentiary minister, was presented to the grand sultan. His reception took place with all the ceremonies I have already described; and M. Kotusow, by this means, obtained his audience of leave in eight days. However, different affairs detained him at Constantinople some weeks longer.

At length the Porte fixed the day of our departure for the 15th of March (old style); which was effected with rather the more difficulty, the Porte being obliged to defray the expenses of the whole embassy to the frontier of Turkey. Wishing to make the

greatest advantage of the short time I was to remain in this city, I set out one fine morning with one of my companions, directing our course towards the coast of Asia, which lay opposite to us. We embarked for Scutari, without once reflecting on the precaution indispensably necessary to strangers who visit Constantinople, or its environs, of providing themselves with a janissary. After going through this town, we gained a cypress wood, in which we found several Turkish monuments. It was in vain that we repeatedly inquired our way of the Jews, Greeks, and Turks we met with: we did not go the less astray. After passing several villages, country towns, and country houses, situated by the sea-side, we at length, after a course of an hour and a half, reached the palace of *Anadoli-Hissar*. We passed by a bridge, over a large rivulet, which empties itself into the sea opposite to Scutari, after having watered in its course a beautiful valley surrounded with high mountains, along which we had passed.

Instead of proceeding towards *Anadoli-Hissar*, as I wished, my companion in-

sisted upon ascending the mountains which lay before us. Our project was to go to Bujukdere, on the coast of Europe, in which spot are many country houses belonging to foreign ambassadors; but, being ignorant of the roads, and divided in our inclinations, occasioned our not finding a place by which we could effect the passage of the straits. As the weather was very fine, we continued our journey without much reflexion on the route we were taking. We were in hopes soon to reach the shore of the Black Sea, and to view the fortifications made there by baron de Tott. Having thus continued our march during some time, and found means to satisfy our hunger with what the little shops in the villages we passed through afforded, we at length reached the little town of Beykos, where we rested a short time. A few glasses of excellent Romelia wine, together with some bread, offered us by two Turks we met with, gave us fresh force for continuing our route without staying longer in Beykos. My companion, in spite of my opinion, absolutely insisted on following a paved road up a hill. After half an

hour's travelling, it brought us to some houses built of wood, below which we perceived a most fertile valley, intersected by a road partly bordered with large avenues, towards which we proceeded. After rambling about the valley for some time, we arrived about sun-set at a village called Derske, situated three leagues from the sea. Having entered an inn, we determined to pass the night in it. A Jew we met with, who understood Italian, which is pretty much spoken in this canton, performed the office of interpreter to us, and told us, that we were on the road to Nicomedia, which was only three days journey from the place where we then were. The appearance of strangers of our description being a very singular occurrence in this country, its novelty attracted to the inn a great number of Turks, who seated themselves, with their coffee before them, in the room we were occupying. After taking out their long pipes, they sat down with their legs crossed, and observed us with great gravity, but without changing their posture for an instant. As we endeavoured to enter into conversation with them

by means of our interpreter, they replied to all our questions with equal politeness and cordiality. In general our presence appeared pleasing to them; and they seemed by no means to regret the time they passed with us. Observing our host mount a place a little elevated in one of the corners of the room to say his prayers, turning towards the east and making divers and repeated inclinations, according to the injunctions of the Koran, we retired to rest on a kind of camp bed, furnished with some old cushions; on which, hard as they were, we enjoyed a tranquil and profound sleep. The next morning we received visits from several Turks, who, with the calm and serious manner they never throw aside, came to breakfast with us. We adopted their customs; and when breakfast was over, we took advantage of the fine day announced by the first rays of the rising sun, for continuing our journey. We resumed a part of the road we had gone through the day before, and directed our course to the right, towards a large village called Akbaba. My companion occasioned

us a second time to go astray, and we lost ourselves among mountains very little frequented, from which we escaped with the greatest difficulty across the brambles, thistles, and thickets which lay in our way. Our courage was beginning to be exhausted, when we suddenly reached a delightful valley, in which we perceived several houses, and springs of water. At the bottom of the mountain on which we had wandered, to our great satisfaction, we discovered the Bosphorus. Being already at some distance from the little town of Beykos, which we had passed the preceding day, we embarked in a sloop, that, in the space of a few hours, conducted us safely to Pera, notwithstanding the wind, by which the sea was violently agitated. After this little excursion, we began to think of the necessary preparations for our departure. Before I quitted Constantinople, I beheld from my windows the melancholy spectacle of a conflagration at Scutari. It was so considerable, that all the country, as well as the sea, was rendered as light as at noon day by the vivid brightness of the flames. The im-

pression made upon me by this event was still increased by the noise the Turks have the custom of making on these occasions. They strike the pavement with their sticks, and run about the streets, making dreadful cries and lamentations. Unfortunately, fires are so frequent here, that very little attention is paid them unless when they threaten to become extremely extensive.

I shall confine my remarks on the curiosities I observed in Constantinople to the detail I have already given. So many accounts and descriptions have been given of it, that I consider it as useless to repeat here what has been before published by other travellers. It is in such works as those that the reader may gratify his curiosity, if he finds that I have omitted any topic relating to Constantinople which appears to him interesting or important.

CHAP. VII.

Departure from Constantinople—Return to St. Petersburg.

WEDNESDAY $\frac{13}{26}$ March, 1794, was the day fixed for our departure. M. de Kotusow, after obtaining his audience of leave from the grand-signior, and from the visir; after paying his last visit to the other foreign ambassadors, and, in a word, having fulfilled all the necessary punctilios, departed in great ceremony from the capital of Turkey. Though our departure was not as brilliant as our entrance had been, yet the numerous suite that composed our retinue, the sound of Russian and Turkish music, together with the troops which escorted the ambassador, formed a display which rendered the spectacle considerably striking. A great part of the inhabitants of Constantinople were in the streets, at the windows, and even on the roofs of the houses, to see

us file off into marching order. Ali, a bacha with two tails, was the conductor in chief furnished us by the Turkish government. The two tails (the marks of his dignity) were carried before him, at the end of a long staff, and fixed before his tent every time we halted. Saim Mechmet Aga was the next in command under him. Their office consisted in procuring us provisions, and means for conducting our equipages; in a word, in furnishing us with every thing that could contribute to the pleasure and safety of our journey. Different circumstances had prevented me from setting out with the embassy, and I did not leave Constantinople till three days after its departure; when I reached, on horseback, the first encampment of the embassy, near Kutschuk-Tschekmetsche, a league from St. Stephans, which had been our last halt previously to entering Constantinople.

The ambassador received, during his abode in this village, where such a concourse of persons had never before been witnessed, a multitude of visits from Constantinople. As there were not tents enough in the camp

for the persons who were latest arrived, I was obliged to pass the night in my carriage. The next morning we resumed our march, with all the equipages, to go to Bujukt-Schekmetsche, where we encamped, and which we left very early the next morning. I made the greatest part of the journey on foot. At the distance of two leagues, before we reached Silivrey, I quitted the high road for one which appeared to me shorter along the sea of Marmora. After having proceeded a league and a half, without perceiving our camp, I began to be apprehensive, judging, by the solitude and desert-like appearance of the country, that I had again gone astray; for I no where met with the smallest trace of cultivation: but coming suddenly to a turn in the road, I with great satisfaction discovered the high walls of the little town of Silivrey, or Selimbria, founded, as it is said, by the Athenians. Our camp was at a small distance from hence, and I lost not a moment in gaining it. The ambassador received in this place, as well as in the neighbourhood of all other considerable places through which he passed, a visit from

the cadi *, and the principal inhabitants. The kiaya, or deputy of the bacha of Adrianople, also met us in the environs of Silivrey, attended with five hundred Turkish troops, for the purpose of protecting and escorting the embassy. Our stay in this place was employed in visiting Silivrey, and in making different excursions along the sea-shore. In its suburbs is an imperial granary, which receives corn from all the surrounding country. This town is the see of a Greek bishop. It is difficult to find any thing more exquisitely beautiful than the adjacent country. The bread is of an excellent quality, and very white,—two recommendations rarely found in that used at Constantinople.

Leaving this place, we advanced towards Kinigli, where we met a deputation from the pacha of Adrianople, commissioned to present two capital horses to M. Kotusow, who acknowledged the compliment, by presenting them in his turn with twenty skins of

* This is the name given to the judges among the Turks. The word taken in an absolute sense denotes the judge of a town or village.

martens. This evening was passed, as usual, in the open fields. The sound of our martial music attracted a great number of inhabitants from the environs, and so entirely captivated them as to make them forget for a moment that they were under the necessity of furnishing provisions for the great number of guests now before them. This afflux of spectators afforded us a fortunate occasion of observing the manners and costume of the country. We retired to our tents, and to the sweets of sleep, extremely gratified with the remarks we had occasion to make, and were awakened by the sounds of trumpets and cymbals, which summoned us to preparations for continuing our march.

We advanced slowly, escorted by the Turks, who were all armed with pistols and sabres. As we seldom travelled more than five or six leagues in a day, we generally arrived before noon in the place where we intended to encamp.

The quantity of vineyards we observed announced that we were not far from the little town of Tschorlu. The inhabitants,

after the example of the other villages we had passed, came out in great ceremony, on beautiful horses, to meet the ambassador. The verdure of the corn-fields we observed along the roads, in leaving this town, was sufficient to give us an idea of the great fertility of the canton. It was near one of these fields that we halted. We met with excellent wine; and, on account of the abundant harvests of the preceding year, extremely cheap.

The next day we encamped near the village of Karastran. We observed nothing remarkable on the road but some flocks of sheep, of a large breed, grazing in the spacious plains of the environs. The inhabitants of this village appeared to be in poor circumstances. Although they were put to considerable expense in furnishing provisions for the embassy, yet they appeared to feel the same effects from the music as had been the case with the inhabitants of the villages we had before passed through. They seemed for a moment to forget the inconvenience we caused them; and imposed upon themselves the duty of expres-

sing to us, both in looks and assurances, the satisfaction and astonishment they experienced from a visit so new and unexpected.

On the following day we had to cross several marshy places, where we encountered very bad roads, notwithstanding the dykes and bridges which had been carefully constructed in all the low grounds. These roads conducted us to a charming country, in which is situated the little town of Burgos, or Bergase, near which we encamped. We took advantage of the time which remained before dinner to visit again a place which had already much pleased us in the passing view we took of it, and which we afterwards examined with greater assiduity during our residence in its environs. It contains a public hospital, situated at the entrance of a large square, in the middle of which is a considerable fountain, and a range of stables sufficiently spacious to contain 5000 horses. All these edifices are constructed of free-stone, and with the greatest regularity.

As the grand festival of the Ramazan *

* The Ramazan is the name of the moon or month during which the Turks celebrate their Lent by fasting with great

was now celebrating among the Turks, a large fair was holding in this town, which afforded us a new occasion of admiring the pretty productions in clay, fabricated in this place. We observed in a square edifice, rather irregular in its form, a long range of handsome shops, filled with all sorts of Turkish and Indian stuffs, and a quantity of other merchandise. We next visited the mosque, which has a steeple that is lighted at night, and makes a very handsome appearance. This mosque, as is generally the case in the Turkish towns, is a very considerable edifice. All around it is a sort of vestibule, decorated with a number of columns, in the middle of which is a large fountain. The Turks, who were now assembled in this temple to perform their devotions, invited us to enter the interior, which was lighted up by a great number of lamps suspended at certain distances; but, as we were desirous

patience and austerity. No one is exempted from this abstinence till after sun-set. This Lent was established amongst the Turks in the month Ramazan, because Mahomet asserted that the Koran had been sent to him from heaven during that period.

to hear the music in our camp, we preferred returning, and found in it a great number of persons already assembled in a semicircle, impatiently expecting the moment when this martial concert was to begin.

We set out early the next morning, in order to accomplish by an early hour the seven leagues and a half allotted for that day. In this place we quitted our old road, and proceeded in a direction a little more to the right; by which means we procured ourselves the advantages of novelty. We discovered for the second time the little town of Burgos, whose two mosques form a very pleasing appearance.

In this route we met alternately with plains and hills. These last were in general supplied with trees and shrubs, exhibiting, however, very few indications of their being cultivated or inhabited. But if there was a scarcity of human beings in this place, it certainly on the other hand might boast of a prodigious quantity of game; a circumstance which greatly contributed to the gratification of the young noblemen of our suite, who amused themselves as they went

along with pursuing it. As the oxen which were harnessed to the greatest part of our carriages proceeded very slowly, I always found myself before them by proceeding on foot, and arrived about three o'clock at our camp near Gnassil-Beili, a very inconsiderable village, situated in a valley interspersed with tilled lands and woods. The country now began to assume an aspect of higher cultivation and more considerable population. We passed many corn-fields, and observed also several cherry and almond trees which were covered with blossoms. At a long half league before we arrived at Kirklis, or Kirk-Ekklesiæ (the Forty Churches), a very celebrated and considerable place in the time of the Greek emperors, we found ourselves in a paved road, bordered on each side by our Turkish escort, and by the peasants whom curiosity had attracted in multitudes to see us. This place is so called because it formerly contained forty Christian churches, though at present there is not one. It is twelve leagues distant from Adrianople. There are very few Christians in it; but a great number of Jews, who came there

from Podolia, and who speak a corrupt sort of German. Their principal occupation is making butter and cheese, which they send to the Jews at Constantinople, after marking it with a certain impression, by which the latter understand that it is pure and made by Jews. This town, situated in a plain, which, though stony, is pretty well cultivated, is bounded by a chain of moderately high mountains, which seem to serve for an advanced guard to the hills Balkan.

In order to render less tedious the time we passed in this country, we yielded to the solicitations of some strollers, to let them amuse us by their performances and combats; when quickly stripping off half their clothes, they exhibited a feeble specimen of the olympic games. What caused us the most astonishment, was less the address and strength they manifested, than the sudden transition from heat to cold to which they exposed themselves; for, at the very moment of being entirely covered with perspiration by the violence of their motions, cold water

was thrown over their bodies without their appearing to suffer any injury from it.

Towards the decline of day we walked about the town. The turrets of the mosques, which on account of the Ramazan were lighted up, produced a very pleasing effect. The greater part of the streets were lined by a range of shops, presenting a view no less pleasing. I observed several bathing-houses, and a great number of fountains. The environs of this town contain a number of well-cultivated gardens and fields. The poor rustics who had conducted us to this place from Pera received for recompense but five piastres; which could scarcely be sufficient for the support of themselves and their oxen till they again reached their cottages. They were replaced by new conductors, who were Bulgarians, Armenians, and Greeks, with long black beards, and large white frocks descending to their heels. We procured new relays of oxen, and left our camp the next day at sun-rise.

The road we followed was very narrow, conducting us by continual turnings and

zigzags among mountains we had already at a distance perceived before us. We continued our march, without stopping, among rocks and stones; and the only compensation we experienced for the rustic and savage appearance of this country was a few cultivated fields, and shrubs in blossom, which now and then fell in our way. Though we were but in the month of April, the heat had already been so considerable, that the rivulets which usually flowed among the rocks and mountains were now entirely dry.

Towards two o'clock in the afternoon we at length reached Erekly, situated in a mountainous country, but tolerably well cultivated. We pitched our camp upon an elevation behind this village. The inhabitants being all Turks, and consequently in the habit of abstaining from wine, we were obliged to content ourselves without it, notwithstanding the endeavours we had made to procure some.

As a certain degree of disorder had lately occurred in our progress, to avoid this in future it was ordered, that every one should

strictly observe his proper rank. In consequence of this the ambassador placed himself at the head of the retinue; and was followed by the counsellor, the grand marshal, the esquires, the secretaries, &c. each according to the situation and dignity he occupied. Things being thus disposed, we began our journey at six o'clock in the morning, in very fine weather, and in the midst of the warblings of a quantity of birds which seemed to celebrate the luminary which was majestically rising above the horizon.

In leaving Kirklis we lost sight of Romelia, and now found ourselves in Bulgaria. The first of these provinces, at present more generally known under the name of Romania, derives its name from the Romans, or from New Rome, that is Constantinople, the seat of the Roman empire in the east. Its ancient name was Thrace, and, together with Bulgaria adjacent to it, it composed in former days the lower part of Mœsia. Though the road was not so full of stones and rocks as that of the preceding day, it was, however, so bad, that our carriages were more than once in

danger of being overturned. On whatever side we looked, we beheld nothing but masses of rocks heaped on each other, and very rarely perceived among the bushes and brambles any traces of cultivation. The soil became a little better in the environs of the village of Kutschedderlach, situated in a narrow valley, and washed by a small river, on whose banks appeared fields which announced the greatest fertility. The three Bulgarians who conducted our carriages belonged to this village. Delighted at finding themselves so near their cottages, they asked our permission to go and see their wives; who returned with them, and accompanied us during a part of our day's journey.

We perceived at some distance from hence numerous flocks of sheep of a very fine sort, and which constitute the principal wealth of the inhabitants.

We encamped this day at the farther side of a mountain, near a valley half a league from the village of Kanara. As we set out later than common on account of the order which had been prescribed for our march, our

carriages were not all arrived at the camp till six in the evening.

The following day was devoted to repose. The heat was so intense, that I could not till the evening go out of my tent to ascend the mountain, at the foot of which we were encamped. Along the valley runs a little river, partly among the rocks, and partly across some pretty well cultivated lands. The ambassador received in this place, from the bostangi-bacha of Adrianople a very polite letter, accompanied by a considerable provision of green and dried fruits of all sorts.

On Saturday the 12th of April we raised our camp by four o'clock in the morning. The road we followed insensibly became so narrow and unfrequented, that we had the greatest difficulty in passing some of the places to arrive at that in which we were to halt, and which is situated at a small distance from the large village of Fakir, on a hill surrounded with mountains. The houses of this village are detached, and at some distance from each other.

On Sunday we again set out in very cold weather and a high wind. We enjoyed at our ease, on the top of the mountains, a view of the village, and of the fields and meadows which surround it. We next descended into a large forest, where we found the roads better than any we had met with for a long time. Some thoughtless young men belonging to the embassy wishing, as they called it, to illuminate the road, set fire to the dry wood we met with in several places, without reflecting on the injury they caused to the poor inhabitants of this canton, to whom our passage was sufficiently burdensome, without further distinguishing it by so useless, not to say barbarous, a devastation. I could not refrain from manifesting my displeasure to the authors of this proceeding; and the observations I offered on this subject were the more founded, as the beautiful verdure of the thickets here and there dispersed, and the chanting of the infinite number of birds with which they were peopled, had afforded me different sensations of so delightful a nature, that it struck me as the height of injustice to deprive succeeding

travellers of the same gratifications. This incident caused me a real displeasure; and I was not the only person who expressed this sentiment on witnessing so thoughtless and mischievous a conduct. Arrived at the extremity of the wood, we discovered the hills Balkan, and the shores of the Black Sea; but which were still at a considerable distance from us. We now descended into a valley, where we encamped in a meadow washed by a small river which runs near the village of Karabunar.

The time of our residence in this place was, in a great measure, employed in making presents and visits to the Turks, who returned them with the greatest eagerness. M. de Kotusow sent to the conductor in chief of the escort Ali, bacha with two tails, in acknowledgment of the particular civility and interest he had employed on our behalf during the route, fourteen marten skins, ten pounds of tea, and a pound of rhubarb; to which he added an ermine pelisse for his son Ismael. The bacha, unwilling to be less generous than the ambassador, sent him presents in his turn, and also to different per-

sons of the embassy. I did not receive any for my share; but this was amply compensated by the particular civilities bestowed upon me by a Turk of my acquaintance, who received me in his tent with every demonstration of friendship, and absolutely insisted on my dining with him. The more the Turks are known, the more they are beloved for their cordiality, their frankness, and their excessive kindness towards strangers. I am not afraid to assert, that, in many respects, they may serve as models to my countrymen.

The nearer we approached the high mountains, the more the coldness of the air increased, so that we were obliged to have recourse to our furs. Our march was to have terminated at a small distance from the village of Kussu-kassir, situated at the foot of the mountain, in which place we were to encamp; but finding it impossible to collect in it sufficient provisions and accommodations for our use, we were obliged to proceed two leagues further; as far as the little village of Banly. The roads we now met with were infinitely better than those we

had before passed through, and were almost a continued plain.

The next day we had delightful weather, which in some measure made us amends for the cold we had experienced during the preceding ones. We had also very good roads. After having passed the village I have above spoken of, we observed in its vicinity many spots of land very tolerably cultivated. We proceeded along a plain bounded by the hills Balkan, and perceived at about a mile distance the shores of the Black Sea. After passing through a small wood, we approached by a gradually ascending road the little town of Aidos, situated at the foot of a mountain. The steeples of its mosques, which are seen at a great distance, afford a very pleasing point of view. It was immediately behind this wood, surrounded with meadows and tilled lands, that we found our camp on the banks of a pretty large rivulet which turns several mills. We made some stay in this place, where we a second time exchanged our guides, and dismissed the Bulgarians who had brought us

hither. We could not witness without emotion the affecting scene which took place between our new conductors and their wives. It was perfectly in unison with what we had already observed of their mild and susceptible character. Dressed in their best clothes, the women accompanied their husbands to the camp; and when the moment of departure was come, they tenderly embraced them, expressing the most eager anxiety for their prompt return.

On this day we met with a worse road than any which had yet occurred. At first it was tolerable, with the exception of some hills bordered on each side with tilled lands and meadows; and it continued so for some leagues, till we reached a valley where the Balkan hills commence. It here became narrow, and filled with stones; and the country assumed suddenly a romantic and savage appearance. We found ourselves surrounded on all sides by large tufted woods, which covered the mountains. The road insensibly became so rugged and steep, that it was with equal apprehension and

difficulty we reached our camp, pitched in the hollow of a small meadow, in which the waters falling from the mountain collect themselves. This place is called Subaschi. We beheld on all sides of us woods and mountains, whose multiplied echoes repeated with new strength the sounds proceeding from the camp. As we did not arrive in this place till sun-set, and had been obliged to perform a great part of the journey on foot, we eagerly repaired to our dinners in the large tent, and had no sooner satisfied the cravings of hunger than each of us retired to repose himself after the fatigues of the day.

The next day we resumed our route among these unfrequented mountains. The large pieces of stone and rock which lay in the road rendered our march extremely irksome. We kept along a valley inclosed by two high chains of mountains, at the foot of which runs the Deletschadere, a little stream forming an infinity of circuits. We were obliged to cross it at least forty times, as had already happened to us with the Kamtschik on the confines of Bulgaria and Rome-

lia. We had proceeded a long way without experiencing any improvement in our route. Our eyes, fatigued by this continual mass of rocks, and by the view of so naked and savage a country, were at length relieved by the appearance of a plain interspersed with corn-fields and meadows, which for a moment destroyed the monotony of this melancholy spectacle. From this moment the road took a direction as completely straight as if we had been travelling in an avenue, and it continued thus till we arrived in the environs of Kioprakioy, where we encamped.

Sunday the $\frac{2}{14}$th of April, being Easter day, we celebrated this festival, and passed the whole day in this village. After having assisted at public worship, which was performed under the tent with all possible pomp, we assembled at the ambassador's to pay him the compliments usual on such occasions. The music played during the dinner. Our new Bulgarian guides joined the Russians in the dances and amusements which took place on the occasion.

The next day we raised our camp at rather a late hour. We at first met with a

very good road through the charming wood which lay before us; but we had no sooner quitted it, than we were under the necessity of climbing a very high mountain, whence we enjoyed various points of view equally extensive and agreeable. We perceived behind us the rugged summits of the Balkan hills and the wild country we had just passed; before us, a spacious plain interspersed with pasturages and tilled lands. What rendered this picture still more interesting was some villages which we now first discovered; for, to the present moment, we had perceived nothing from the mountains but some lonely habitations, announcing the scanty number of the inhabitants.

After having crossed some of these fields, passed near one of the villages, and entered a valley inclosed by another chain of mountains, we quickly reached our camp, pitched near the little town of Prawadi, which is itself situated amidst very picturesque scenery. This position excited in me the greater pleasure, as it recalled to my mind the recollection of the Crimea, and that of all the environs of Batchisarai, its

capital. The rocks which form the summit of this double chain of mountains, as is exactly the case in that peninsula, exhibit a very singular outline. They represent in their highest part two long walls, which might naturally be mistaken for the ruins of ancient fortifications; and others of them resemble small towers. In the middle of these rocks are perceived vineyards, and other marks of the most industrious activity, which, when the nature of the place where they thus present themselves is considered, occasion the spectator equal astonishment and pleasure. I enjoyed this spectacle to the very last moment; when, taking a little path conducting to the highest part of one of these mountains, I discovered at my ease the small town of Prawadi, which, however, is pretty extensive. I enjoyed also the view of its different mosques, and of all the valley. The motion which prevailed in our camp, and the evening music, completed the various sources of pleasure I had procured myself in the course of the day.

The following day being devoted to re-

pose, I had leisure for visiting the town, and taking a nearer view of the different form of these romantic mountains. Having ascended one of the steepest of them, I discovered the vestiges of ancient fortifications. I observed also a kind of large gate-way, and a stair-case hewn in the rock, which still remains in perfect preservation. The road appearing very dangerous, I judged it prudent to return in the same track, notwithstanding the pleasure I should have had in visiting the village, which is situated on the point of this mountain.

On Wednesday the $\frac{12}{23}$ April, we resumed our route in the same order as had before been observed when we passed the Balkan hills; but the passage being wider, and the mountains at rather more distance from each other, we passed them without difficulty. After leaving this chain on the right, and taking a circuitous direction, we met with a great number of well cultivated vineyards. We had constantly on that day very good roads, partly across hills and partly along plains. We observed with the great-

est pleasure the cultivated condition of the land of this canton, and the considerable number of its villages.

Towards noon we arrived at our camp, near Koslitschi, a small town, situated in a plain, in which are two mosques, and from which is discernible the chain of the Balkan hills. Some entrenchments, the remains of which are still existing at some distance from hence, recall the remembrance of the battle fought against the Turks in this place, during the last war, by the celebrated M. de Romanzow, who advanced as far as the walls of Prawadi, and consequently further than prince Potemkin: but the hussars having attempted to take it by storm, they were driven back, and obliged to retreat.

The next day, Thursday, we had cold windy weather. On leaving this place, the Balkans appeared diminished to hillocks, and the country assumed a very flat appearance. We did not find this part of Bulgaria so well cultivated as that we had passed through on the preceding day; which is perhaps principally occasioned by a scarcity

of water. Some remains of walls and different masses of stones are the only vestiges of a village which existed in former days, surrounded by a vast extent of fields and meadows. The whole of this road is extremely woody. It was near two o'clock when we arrived at our camp behind Basartschik, that is to say, the little-market. This place, which during the residence of the Russians in it in 1774 was consumed by fire, is now entirely rebuilt, and forms a pretty considerable town, surrounded by mountains of moderate height. A quantity of burying-grounds of some magnitude, and which have existed from the times of Greeks, are a proof that the inhabitants of these countries have been numerous. I was not a little surprised towards evening by hearing the sound of a bell; it reminded me of the alarm-bells in the towns of Germany. This bell, intended to proclaim the hour, has existed from the time of the Greeks; and, though many centuries have already elapsed, is still in high preservation.

The next day being destined to repose, I

employed it in visiting the town, which contains nothing remarkable but a public square, and some rows of shops.

On the next day we continued our journey about five o'clock in the morning. After passing an insignificant village called Musaby, we reached a little mountain, beyond which we encamped. On Sunday we had very good roads through plains and meadows, interspersed alternately with hills and delightful valleys. I remarked in several villages through which we passed, that the houses of the inhabitants were detached, and surrounded by a hedge which separates their domains. The country would be no doubt in a better state of cultivation but for the scarcity of rivers and springs. Even the small quantity of water with which these villages are supplied is drawn from wells by means of wheels, and is of an indifferent quality. The cemeteries here and there dispersed in the fields recall the recollection of the ravages which prevailed during the last war.

Towards noon we found, at the bottom of a high mountain, a village called Baktir,

beyond which we encamped in a very agreeable valley. In the evening I had the curiosity to walk to one of these mountains, and remarked here and there a very profound grotto, which appeared to have formerly served the purpose either of an abode or a magazine. One of these was extremely large, and divided into two parts, extending itself to the right through a great part of the mountain. Its interior was so gloomy and obscure, that I had not courage enough to penetrate it. I was scarcely returned to my tent when a violent tempest took place, accompanied with thunder and lightning, diffusing such a refulgence through the camp as to give it the appearance of being in flames.

Monday $\frac{17}{11}$th of April was a day of repose. A colonel of artillery, accompanied by two other officers, was sent to Silivrey, fourteen leagues from Baktir-Kioy, with a letter from M. de Kotuzow to the bacha of the place, containing his acknowledgments for an escort of two hundred men he had sent us. This officer was commissioned to present him forty marten skins of Kamtschatka, forty

of the skins of the same animal from the government of Tobolsk, and six pounds of tea. The secret motive of his mission was to observe the works of the fortress, and to bring away the plan of it.

The next day we had charming weather. As the rain had refreshed the roads, we found them every where very good, both in the plains and on the hills, as far as the little village of Machmut-Kioy, where our camp was fixed. This place contains only a few lonely houses, scattered here and there on an eminence, and belonging to peasants. In the meadows, it is common to meet with petrified shells and other sea productions. The cadis of the neighbouring villages sent M. de Kotuzow an escort of an hundred men.

The next day, immediately after sunrising, we quitted our camp, and continued our route through very tolerable roads, notwithstanding the quantity of dust, which greatly inconvenienced us. We crossed several little mountains and valleys, every where covered with rich and delightful verdure. When we had got beyond a long range of rocks, we found ourselves

on the borders of a small lake, formed by the waters of the Danube, which flows ten werstes from this place, and overflows thus far the adjacent fields. We next reached the village of Tschelebey-Kioy, which is rather larger than that we had passed through the evening before. It is situated in a mountainous country, interspersed with beautiful meadows. There are some old walls still remaining in it, which no longer serve any other purpose than an asylum for storks; but which, at the same time, indicate the ancient grandeur of this village, near which we encamped.

As our march for the next day was to consist of no more than five leagues, I accomplished them on foot, following a narrow path which conducted me along some high mountains. On my road I met with a charming spring; which occasioned me the more pleasure and surprise, as good water for drinking is very rarely found in this canton. Towards noon we reached our camp, which was pitched in the environs of Satisz-Kioy, a pretty considerable village, which we had already perceived from

a great distance, and situated in a spacious plain, here and there interspersed with mountains of moderate height.

The $\frac{21}{2}$ April, May, was a day of repose. We celebrated with our military music the anniversary of the birth of the empress. The grand festival of the Beiran, which concludes the Ramazan or Lent of the Turks, happened to fall on the same day *.

On the following day, according to custom, we resumed our journey at sun-rising. Throughout the four leagues allotted for that day, we met on the road with nothing but plains, meadows, and some inconsiderable mountains. We had most delightful weather. The heavy rains which had fallen on the preceding days had cooled the air, laid the dust, and bestowed a new aspect of freshness on the verdure, which added to the beauty of the view that presented itself on

* The Beiran is the name given to the grand annual feast of the Mahometans. It is the Easter of the Turks, who celebrate it with the greatest solemnity; and the intemperance which prevails for three days, during the continuance of the Beiran, is proportioned to the extreme abstemiousness they observe during the Ramazan.

all sides. It was not more than ten o'clock when we arrived in our camp, near Kassimtschy. This village is divided into two portions, which are separated from each other by a distance of at least a quarter of a league. The first contains many plantations of fruit-trees. We pitched our camp precisely in the middle space between these two portions; and it was surrounded on all sides by mountains and naked rocks, but of very inconsiderable height. As we were to travel fourteen werstes on the following day, we took the precaution of setting out about ten o'clock in the evening, in order to avoid the intense heat of the sun. Our poor animals were so much fatigued, that it was with difficulty they reached the rendezvous; and we were ourselves so exhausted, that we retired to rest immediately on arriving at the place of our destination.

On Sunday $\frac{2}{4}$ April, $\frac{3}{4}$ May, about four o'clock in the morning, we were informed that we had passed near two villages, and that the worst part of the road was accomplished. We immediately directed our course towards another

town, half a league further on, of some consideration. Here we halted, for the sake of giving our cattle an opportunity of breathing from their fatigue, taking the same opportunity of refreshing ourselves with some breakfast. As the morning was very fine, I determined to pursue the rest of the road on foot. I insensibly lost sight of the plains, and beheld only a mountainous country, similar to that we had previously passed. I soon reached a fourth village, situated at the foot of several high mountains that were lost in the distance, and environed with clouds, which seemed to disperse as I advanced. With the exception of a few hills, the rest of the road was very tolerable.

It was already past noon, and I had not yet perceived the camp. I began to find myself extremely fatigued; when, making a sudden turn in the road near a hill situated to the left, I at length discovered the object of my researches. All our people were but at half a league distance from it, near the village of Tscherna, at the foot of the mountains which lay before me, and which surrounded our camp on three sides. Our car-

riages did not arrive till two o'clock in the afternoon, after having been fourteen hours on the road. The arrival of a courier M. Kotuzow received from Petersburg obliged us to pass the Monday in this place. The hope of discovering the Danube induced me to make an excursion towards the evening to some of the elevated situations about a league distant; but on all sides I beheld nothing but mountains, whose rocky protuberances presented no trace of cultivation.

The next day we took our direction across these mountains, which stretched along to our right, and the greatest part of which terminate in the form of a sugar-loaf. On the other side we perceived some swamps formed by the Danube, and a great number of small islands inclosed by several branches of this river. The road continued the same till the moment when we discovered the Danube itself, which flows here majestically in the middle of a charming plain, surrounded by meadows covered with thick high grass, announcing the greatest fertility. We encamped at a very short distance from the banks of this river, half a league from

Matschni, which at present is more like a village than a town. The traces of the ravages which took place during the last war are still apparent in its environs. We even found in our camp some balls, and several pieces of iron, which had been left there by howitzers. This village, as well as all the surrounding country, within three or four leagues, is inhabited by a great number of Moldavians and Walachians.

Being very desirous of arriving early at our destination, we again set out about six o'clock in the evening. The road we took extends along the Danube, sometimes nearer and sometimes further from it, and lying among meadows. The height and abundance of the grass with which these last were covered convinced us that we were no longer very far from the fruitful country of Moldavia. The view of Matschni, contiguous to a chain of mountains, at a small distance, was extremely agreeable. Eight or nine wersts further on to the left, we discovered the town and fortress of Brailow, situated very near the banks of the Danube, which, in

this place, as well as in the environs of Galatz, divides itself into several branches.

The town of Brailow, in consequence of its situation on this river, near the mouth of the Sereth, formerly carried on a very considerable commerce, and was a general depositary for all the merchandise which passed to and from Turkey, as well by the Danube and the Red Sea, as by the great roads to Constantinople; but the different wars, of which this country has successively been the theatre, have effectually ruined its commerce. The Turks have a commandant in this place, on whom the whole *raya* or canton depends; and it is here that the nazir of the sultan receives the tribute paid by Walachia, under the title of winter and spring provision. This town has been several times taken by the Russians.

The principal objects of exportation are oxen, horses, sheep, salted meat, fruits, wine, honey, butter, wool, wood, salt, &c. The horses produced in this *raya* are very much esteemed in Turkey. They are used for the most part for the light-horse of several Ger-

man princes. The oxen are equally sought after, as well for their size and strength as the excellence of their flesh. Turkey draws every year from this *raya* a great number of sheep, which, for the same reasons, are preferable to all the others of Walachia. Formerly there was a considerable market in Brailow for salted meat, which was prepared in an island of the Danube, situated opposite to this town, and which on this account still retains the name of the Butchery Island.

Butter, honey, wool, and skins, were articles which also formed an important branch of commerce with the Turks. Agriculture having been from time immemorial neglected in Walachia, it has consequently never made any considerable exportation of grain; those which have been principally cultivated in it, are wheat, Turkish corn, barley, and kukuruse, a kind of Turkish wheat, millet, and a small quantity of oats. The inhabitants of these countries, after the example of the Turks, commonly feed their horses with barley. They cultivate very little rye, as they constantly use bread made from wheat and millet, or a kind of cake prepared of

kukuruse. They only sow sufficient flax and hemp to supply their domestic necessities.

Labour, and the proper adaptation of crops, are in general so ill understood in this country as to render the scantiness of its produce very little surprising. Not more than a fortieth part of its extent is tilled. The cultivator only sows what he considers as sufficient to serve him for the necessaries of life, under the apprehension that the boyards or lords, who take the utmost care that these unfortunate peasants should retain no more than what will suffice for their existence, may seize whatever exceeds that proportion. The misery and idleness, or rather the state of non-entity of the human species in these countries, appears almost incredible when the natural excellence of the soil is considered; but when reflexion is carried back to the operation of eastern despotism, refined by the hospodars, who are at the same moment both slaves and tyrants, there is no longer room for astonishment.

Before the last wars the *kile* of wheat, a measure of the country weighing two hun-

dred and sixty okas, that is to say five hundred and eighty-five pounds, at two pounds and a quarter to each oka, was purchased for four shillings and two-pence; a kile of rye a piastre and a half; and a kile of barley a piastre. The price of each of these commodities is now doubled.

The vine is a more considerable object of cultivation and of commerce in this country. It will grow any where, though it is more generally and more successfully cultivated at the foot of the mountains. The wines they produce are light and watery, but they possess a very agreeable flavour, and a nourishing quality. Those of Pietra are esteemed the best, and they are sometimes even considered superior to the best Tokay wine; and, if the country produces very little of it, it is entirely the fault of the inhabitants, who neither know how to make or preserve it, the cultivators of vineyards being unaccustomed to weeding them carefully; and, ignorant of the method of trailing them, similar to that practised in vine countries, content themselves with raking up the earth once a year round the stalk, and take no

further care to prevent the growth of weeds. The most considerable commerce for these wines is with Poland and the Ukraine. A certain quantity is even conveyed as far as Moscow. I have already mentioned the quantity of fruits of every kind produced in Walachia, where it is common to meet with even whole forests of fruit-trees, such as pears, cherries, and apricots, &c. The greatest part of the mountains, in this circumstance of the variety of its fruit-trees, resemble our best cultivated gardens, which undoubtedly will always be inferior to those I saw in Walachia. I observed in general a greater population in the mountains than in the plains, notwithstanding their being less fertile. This is easily accounted for, when it is considered that these mountains answer the purpose of an asylum to the inhabitants during the ravages of war. They instantly fly to them for refuge when the flatter parts of the country are exposed to the fury and ravages of a lawless Turkish soldiery, whose violence it is difficult to restrain, and who bear in mind the consciousness of being the support of the thrones of

the sultans, who dare not punish them. On these unhappy occasions, the Walachians find in these mountains a secure retreat against the rage of their tyrants, who carefully avoid pursuing them thither, dreading the stratagems and intrepidity of those who inhabit them. The paths leading to these mountains are almost inaccessible, and known only to those who constantly reside in them.

Tobacco is an article very much cultivated in Walachia. That of Montan and of Berzan, near the Sereth, is sold at the rate of from four to five peras the oka, or about threepence-halfpenny in English money. The sale of it is very considerable in Turkey, Tartary, and Poland.

The plant called *weyd*, which is used for dying blue, succeeds extremely well both in this province and in Moldavia. That called *skompi*, which is used in the dressing of morocco leather, is likewise cultivated with great success; as well as the *jasba galban*, a sort of strawberry, which is used for dying, and is of a yellow colour. These strawberries grow principally on the banks of the

Pruth, in the environs of Faschina, not far from Tartary.

Not fewer than 340,000 horned cattle are exported from Walachia through Bosnia, from whence they pass to Constantinople; and its pasturages and meadows are so excellent and well known, that several millions of horses, and numerous flocks of sheep, are every year sent to graze in the country.

The price of an ordinary horse is from twelve to twenty piastres; and those of a superior quality seldom sell for more than from thirty to forty. All these horses are of small size.

There are every year sold in Walachia, for the purpose of being sent to Constantinople, several millions of sheep, for about a *lew*, or two shillings and sixpence, each. Their wool is very long and abundant. It is used at Fumato, a village near Bucharest, for fabricating broad-cloths, which are sold at about twenty-two paras per ell, and which are generally dyed either of a blue or grey colour. This manufacture is almost the only one in Walachia. It is easy to conceive that

a nation so indifferent about its commerce takes but little care of the conduct of its manufactories.

Bees, which in this country are very much attended to, have their hives in woods, and in the trunks of trees. The honey, which is almost white, is sent for the consumption of Constantinople. The wax is for the most part sent to Venice. A very singular production of this country is a sort of green wax, produced by a species of bees smaller than common bees. This wax is gathered on certain shrubs, where these industrious insects deposit it. It is used for making bougies; which, on being lighted, exhale a most agreeable perfume. This wax is very scarce; but it would be easy to augment its quantity by cultivating the shrubs on which it is collected, and by attracting the bees in the places favourable to this design.

At twelve leagues from Bucharest is found a fossile salt, part of which is sold in Natolia and Constantinople. It is usually conveyed thither by the Danube. A great part of Walachia consisting of mountains which

form a continuation to those of Hungary, it is sufficient to observe the treasures produced by the mines of the latter, to form a presumption founded on probability, that those of Walachia contain also considerable riches. It is asserted, that many rivers descending from the Krapack hills bring along with them a certain quantity of grains of gold, which is found mixed with the sand. It is common, likewise, to see rings and vases made with this metal, which has been found in the Otta, one of the principal rivers of this province. The Ziganes, a species of wandering Gipseys, who travel in troops like the Tartars, pay a certain tribute for permission to collect that of the Jalowitza, another considerable river of Walachia. However this may be, the riches thus clearly announced by nature, and sought after with such avidity in other countries, are absolutely neglected in this; for which many reasons may be given. The inactivity of the government; the idleness and ignorance of the Walachians; the apprehension they entertain of losing with their riches the feeble remains of liberty left them by their con-

querors; the continual changing of the hospodar, whose office very rarely descends to his son; the few wants experienced in a country provided so abundantly by nature with every thing necessary to existence: all these considerations have probably incited the inhabitants of these countries to a careful concealment of their treasures from the insatiable avidity of the Turks. It is possible the governing power is acquainted with the existence of those treasures, but from motives of political refinement does not choose to have it known that mines exist in their frontier. It may also be recollected, that the Turks are very little disposed to active exertions, their habit being rather to enjoy the fruit of the labour of others.

This slight digression on Walachia sufficiently proves that the province contains the means, not only of a solid, durable, and lucrative commerce, but also that it is both by nature and situation within the reach of obtaining, without the least effort, every possible advantage. Meanwhile, what in this century has become the principal source of

the riches and strength of nations, the most immediate object of attention to other governments, is totally overlooked in a country favoured by nature with abundance and fecundity of every kind. Such are the fruits of indolence and stupidity.

But this profound lethargy, which sinks and brutalizes a nation, is not a malady which seizes it suddenly, but the consequence of a protracted despotism, which by degrees dries up the sources of life, arrests all the springs of the soul, and at length terminates in an universal and mortal stagnation of the whole body politic. Such is the present melancholy condition of the princes of Walachia, that any effort indicating but the germ of talent, or calculated to inspire the public mind with energy, would be imputed to its author as a crime. The hospodars have but one care, but one concern, but one science, as I before had occasion to mention. It consists in securing themselves from the effect of the intrigues and cabals in the court of Constantinople, in avoiding every occasion of jealousy to their haughty masters, and in finding means continually to satisfy

the insatiable avarice of a visir or other principal officer of the Porte. The idea of promoting the happiness of the people who are subject to him, the design of studying the means which might contribute to such a purpose, never yet entered the mind of a hospodar. The simplest efforts towards such an object would be sufficient to increase the yoke already sustained in this unhappy country. A cruel and barbarous policy will not permit the Ottomans to endure on their frontier an enlightened, rich, and flourishing people; and the frequent revolutions of the seraglio, and the no less frequent depositions of their princes, their wars, the lawless licence of the Turkish soldiery, have all contributed to their present condition. All these calamities have diffused terror and consternation in the minds of a people destitute of support from without, and of strength within, and have rendered them timid, inactive, and servile.

Such is the vicissitude of human concerns. The descendants of the Romans, of the colony settled by the emperor Trajan in these parts, after having vanquished its original

possessors, are become the slaves of a barbarous people, who by their illustrious ancestors were unheard of. They have lost with their liberty the taste of sciences, arts, and industry. The monuments of such ancestors, some vestiges of which are still existing in the country, far from making the least impression on these degenerate descendants, have left them as much strangers to every sentiment of glory as they are incapable of reviving their former grandeur.

Though Walachia, no more than other southern countries, has escaped the invasions and inundations of barbarous nations, yet the Roman name and language have ever been preserved in it. The inhabitants still call themselves Romans. The name of Walachians is without doubt a Sclavonian name adopted by the Turks. The present Walachians being a mixture of several nations, their language also is mixed with a quantity of terms, so much disfigured, that it is very often quite impossible to trace their origin. Each barbarous nation has left in it some of its own language, and a most disgusting jargon is the result of the whole

together. Meanwhile, the Roman language has finally been paramount; but without experiencing a better fate in Walachia than in the other countries in which it formerly prevailed; it is even much more corrupted in Walachia than in most other places.

The Walachians are in general tall, well built, robust, and of a very wholesome complexion. Diseases are very rare amongst them; and the plague, though so frequent in Turkey, has never been known in Walachia, excepting in times of war, when this disease is brought among them by the troops who come from Asia.

It is melancholy to consider, that so beautiful and fertile a country, situate in so fine a climate, and inhabited by beings of this description, should be so thinly peopled. I am persuaded that the country is capable of subsisting five or six times more inhabitants than it at present contains. Its population, far from increasing, has been diminishing for a great number of years; the principal reasons for which are easily conceived:—the despotic government of the Turks; the taxes which the hospodar is ob-

liged to levy on the country, to be enabled to pay the annual tribute, and to buy powerful friends at the court of the grand-signior; the tyrannical manner of collecting these taxes; the oppressions of the boyards, who take revenge on their vassals for the sovereign contempt with which they are treated by the Turks; the frequent wars in which the Porte has been engaged, the consequences of which have been so sensibly felt by Walachia, and of which it has often been the theatre; the barbarities and cruelties exercised by the soldiery in times of war; the plague itself, which frequently follows in their train;—this combined multitude of destructive evils, any single one of which is sufficient to lay waste and depopulate the most flourishing country, contributes in equal portions to diminish the number of the inhabitants of this province, and every day to increase their emigration. The wise and benevolent policy of their neighbours receives them with open arms; and Transylvania, in particular, has derived many advantages from these forced or voluntary emigrations of the inhabitants, who in the similarity of

the soil, manners, and language of Transylvania, acknowledge a second country, and a government less subject to such fatal revolutions.

The manners of the Walachians, as far as I have been able to judge of them, are simple, and neither embellished nor sullied by art. They have pretty closely imitated the Turks, their masters, for the most part adopting their dress and modes of living. Temperate in their repasts, they prefer vegetables to fruits, and fruits to the most delicate meats. Their houses, as I believe I have already mentioned, are built and arranged in the Turkish manner, particularly those of the boyards and persons of fortune. It is very unusual to see panes of glass in the windows of the houses in Walachia; the bladders of pigs being used as a substitute for it. The rooms inhabited by the women have always this kind of windows; for the Walachians, as well as the Turks, conceal their women, and exert the utmost care to hide them from the curious observation of strangers; which consequently renders gallantry a question of greater difficulty and

refinement in each of these countries. Their virtues and their vices bear strong resemblance to each other. The Walachians, like the Turks, are very hospitable among themselves, but reserved towards strangers. Hospitality is the more necessary in Walachia, as there are very few, if any, public inns to be found in it: it is therefore much to be wished that this virtue became a general practice.

The Walachians are very fond of wine. They are an idle and covetous, but, upon the whole, respectable people. If there are any common cheats among them, they almost always prove to be Armenians, Greeks, or Jews, who, as well here as every where else, excel in the means of enriching themselves at the expense of others.

What I have just said of the moral character of the Walachians, and of their manners and customs, should be understood to extend only to the largest portion of this nation; for their persons of distinction, their courtiers, and their wealthy inhabitants, wholly imitate the Turks, and perfectly resemble them, with the exception only of the unavoidable difference which always re-

sults where the religion is not the same. The Walachians, as well as the Moldavians, follow the Greek ritual, but are as ignorant in matters of religion as in all other useful knowledge. And this is not surprising:—an illiterate mind, unaccustomed to every kind of reflexion, cannot possibly escape superstition. It attaches itself to external ceremonies, and blindly believes what falsehood is interested to impose. Phantoms, sorcerers, demons, and a thousand other absurdities engendered by credulity and ignorance, and despised by enlightened nations, preserve their whole empire in Walachia. So long as the Walachians shall be no better instructed, and so long as they have no books of merit, it cannot be expected that this people can escape being permanently immersed in their present state of ignorance and darkness. They have in general no books among them, except such as relate to their public worship, written half in the Greek and half in the Sclavonic character, and for the most part printed either in Poland or in Transylvania. The priests themselves are absolutely destitute of erudition or knowledge,

the whole circle of their science extending no further than their being able to read and write.

The history of the human mind is every where the same. The first age of any people is an age of barbarism and superstition. Philosophy arrives with slow and tardy steps in the rear of luxury and public wealth, and thus delivers nations from the fetters which ignorance, imposition, and policy, had imposed upon them in early ages, and which the genial climate of a more enlightened age never fails to dissolve. It will be long yet before the age of illumination reaches the borders of Walachia.

About ten o'clock in the evening we reached the banks of the Danube, where we found three small vessels which our quarter-master general had prepared for our passage. We proceeded to supper at the house of the *michmander* *, who had erected a tent to receive us at a small distance from the river. Here we were obliged to remain till eight

* The michmander is an officer, one of whose special functions it is to receive and entertain the ambassadors who pass through his district.

o'clock the next morning before our carriages were ready to proceed upon the journey.

Wednesday, $\frac{2}{7}$ April, May, we dismissed our Turkish guides, who were transported to think that they had at length reached the limits of their charge, and to be able to return home with their oxen, which were extremely fatigued. Upon entering Moldavia, we found horses ready to convey us, and we were not long before we felt the agreeable effects of this alteration; for it was not above half an hour before we reached Galatz, or Galatsche, at the distance of four werstes from the residence of the michmander. We were here quartered in the houses of the inhabitants, and no longer subject to the inconveniences of an encampment. Our apartments were not very large, but were in general characterised by a conspicuous air of order and neatness. The houses are of wood, and constructed after the Moldavian manner, with the roof projecting some way beyond the walls, to defend the persons within from the heat of the sun. We were every where received with great cordiality and politeness

by the Moldavian boyards, and found them every where attired in their habits of ceremony; that is, a pelisse, and a sort of very loose caftan, with white breeches, and boots yellow or black. Their caps were in the form of a cylinder, terminating at the top with four flattened corners, and encircled on the sides with strips of the skin of the Astracan sheep. The whole of this accoutrement is in so bad a taste, and so powerfully co-operates with the natural idleness of the people, that I have been constantly shocked with it whenever I have had occasion to describe it in the course of this narrative. A circumstance sufficiently ridiculous respecting *these slaves in pelisse* is, that they persuade themselves that their manner of dressing is the most magnificent that it is possible to behold. They pretend that the rest of the Europeans, with their short and scanty skirts, look like so many rope-dancers. A boyard on horseback, with his short stirrups, his knees drawn up to his nose, and his head nodding from side to side, like the Chinese images that we often see among the ornaments of our cabinets, conceives his appear-

ance to be in the highest degree awful and impressive. It is forbidden in the courts of the princes of Walachia and Moldavia to wear a cap of the same colour as that of the prince and his sons. I have been told of a Moldavian nobleman, who was confined in prison several days, and on the point of receiving the *falangue* *, that is to say, blows on the soles of the feet, for having worn a dress of a better taste than that used by one of the last sovereigns, called Gregory Gika. *Whilst this vile slave, dressed like a prince,* says field-marshal de Romanzow, *for a bribe of some hundred ducats, suffers murder and robbery to escape unpunished....To such a height have the cupidity and barbarous ignorance of these ridiculous sovereigns,* adds the same author, *carried their excesses.*

The arrival of the ambassador was announced by several volleys of artillery, and by peals of bells from the churches; of which there are four built of very handsome

* This bastinado is administered in the following manner: The culprit lies on the ground, and two men hold his legs in the air, whilst two others strike upon the naked soles of his feet.

free-stone. The hospodar had sent his secretary Kodrik to meet M. de Kotuzow, and had prepared the most considerable house in Galatz for his residence.

We had scarcely entered the town when I saw carrying along on a cart the *royal fish*, one of the largest that is caught in the Danube, and weighing several quintals. What astonished me the most in this little town, which I visited in the evening, was, to find it in so flourishing a state after the horrible ravages which took place in it in the course of the last war, when, by the order of general Kamenskoi, it was almost totally reduced to ashes. It is at present entirely rebuilt, and contains a considerable number of Russians. This town, as well as most others in Moldavia, exhibits a long range of shops on each side of every street. The industrious activity of the inhabitants, and its advantageous situation on the Danube, which forms here a very handsome port, will no doubt before long restore it to its ancient celebrity, and even increase its importance, unless the occurrence of a new war should again plunge it into misfortune.

The most considerable commerce of Moldavia is carried on in this place, and a very great quantity of foreign ships arrive in it two or three times a year, and again leave it for the Black Sea, and the coasts of Egypt and Barbary, whither they carry wood, honey, wax, butter, saltpetre, and grain. The Danube is for the most part wedged in as it were in this place, the shores being steep, and so near each other as to make the passage narrow. There are, however, some spots where the water has more power to diffuse itself over the ground. We observed in the environs of this town a multitude of workmen occupied in constructing ships; and nothing is seen on all sides but wood, beams and different materials connected with ships and other maritime objects. We very soon perceived that Moldavia, in the beauty of its climate and the advantages of its situation, merited a decided preference over the country we had just left.

I believe I ought to observe, that there is no river in Europe more agreeable and useful to the provinces it waters than the Danube. It unites all the advantages and conveniences that can be by any river bestowed

on any country. It is impossible to cast the eye on this river—as distinguished by its size and extent, as calculated by its situation to favour the most extensive commerce between a part of Asia and Europe—without confessing that Walachia and Moldavia have received from nature, in favour of their commerce, all the advantages that other countries procure at a vast expense, by means of canals, the forming and support of which require large sums of money. These two countries, by means of this and the other rivers which flow into them, might with great ease engage in most advantageous enterprises: for seeing on one side, towards the east, the capital of a great and rich empire, and on the other, towards the west, all the arts and fabrics in high perfection, it is easy to conceive to what degree of prosperity the commerce of Walachia and Moldavia could be carried; and it is impossible not to regret that the people who inhabit these countries do not possess that spirit of industry, activity, and labour, which is its basis.

We rested two days at Galàtz. At some distance from thence, towards the eastern mouth of the Sireth, we discovered the

remains of an ancient town, now called Ghierghina. The coins or medals found in it seem to indicate that it was built in the time of Trajan. Every individual of the embassy, both young and old, thought the wine excellent, and that it deserved the praises they bestowed on it. That with which the Turks had hitherto furnished us was in general very bad; which was occasioned by the rapacity of our principal purveyor, who kept the money allowed for purchasing wines of the best quality, and procured us those of the lowest price.

Towards the decline of day, we witnessed a spectacle under the windows of the apartment we occupied, which for a short time caused us the liveliest inquietude. A neighbouring house, built of wood, suddenly took fire; and it was to the indefatigable activity of the Russians belonging to the embassy that the larger part of the town owed its preservation, in a moment when it was threatened with unavoidable destruction. On Friday the bacha, with the michmander, dined at the ambassador's.

About five o'clock on Saturday, 4 M.

we left Galatz with the horses which had been furnished to draw our equipages; and we were already at a certain distance from the town before we could forget our admiration at the rapidity with which it has been raised from its ruins. The great number of churches situated along the Danube, which in this place is in some measure diffused over the grounds, was also an object of general interest to us.

It was near eight o'clock when we arrived at our quarters at Pineva, situated in a handsome and fertile plain, on the banks of a small lake formed by the Danube. This village is surrounded by a great number of well cultivated orchards. There are in this canton, as well as in several other parts of Moldavia, a great number of Tartars and Russians, who settled there at the conclusion of the last war. Not being able to obtain a bed-room, I was obliged to accommodate myself under my tent, in the court of a Moldavian, upon whose apartment I was unwilling to intrude. He was a peasant in very comfortable circumstances, and his habitation announced perfect order and economy,

The road which conducts to Puzeni being very difficult and fatiguing, from the great number of mountains which continually occur, and having more than forty werstes to travel on this day, we left our station at Pineva on Sunday morning soon after sunrising. We continued along a plain at a small distance from the little river Berlat, and encountered several places choked with deep sands, which rendered our route extremely troublesome. I remarked that all the country was in a high state of cultivation. On this road we met with a prodigious quantity of villages, gardens, and fruit-trees, that appeared to me to exceed every thing of this sort I had observed in the course of our travels.

Towards nine o'clock in the morning we passed the Berlat, over a wooden bridge, in our way to the village of Tekutsch, situated in a charming country, where we found very convenient and comfortable accommodations; which we had scarcely entered, when the ringing of bells from the church announced the arrival of the ambassador. The inhabitants came to meet us with two banners

unfurled, and the hetman * at their head, in a car drawn by two strong and handsome horses. Before the war, this village contained more than eight hundred houses; but scarcely the eighth part of them are now in existence: almost all of those it at present contains are newly built, of which there was no appearance whatever when we passed through the same spot the preceding year. The happy effects of peace are already sensibly felt in every quarter.

If through a well understood policy the two provinces of Walachia and Moldavia were to become subject to some considerable neighbouring power, it would be easy to foresee and explain by what means the country might become one of the finest cantons of Europe. The colonies that would be sent there would have no cause for apprehending the same inconveniences and misfortunes as have been experienced by those of Astracan, because they would be removed to a shorter distance, and would

* The title of hetman answers in Moldavia to that of commandant of city militia, just as, in the Ukraine, it means chief of the Cossacks.

have all the resources of civilised Europe to hope for. They might likewise avoid the inconveniences to which the establishments of the Bannat of Temeswar have been subjected, by being more judicious in the choice of the lands to be fixed on for their habitation. In this view the tracts of Walachia and Moldavia on the Danube are the most favourable, and the climate itself the most salutary of any to be met with. Nothing more would be necessary than to drain the lands, and to carry off the stagnant waters, in order to purify the atmosphere, and render the soil more proper for cultivation. The opening the mines and clearing the woods, the tilling the grounds, and cultivating vines and fruit-trees in a more skilful manner, would be objects which in the space of a few years might enrich two hundred thousand indigent families, who are at present condemned to idleness and want, and bring into the coffers of the sovereign more than sixty millions of livres. The nature of the soil of the plains and hills exhibits in general such favourable properties, that plantations might almost

any where and indiscriminately be formed of rice, tobacco, or sugar—productions that are foreign to our continent, and singularly calculated to succeed in this soil. In this corner of Europe would then be collected almost every object of cultivation known in the globe. The desert, which extends from Jassy to the Dniester, and to the frontier of Podlakia, in a space of twenty leagues in breadth and thirty in length, offers one of the best soils that it is possible to meet with for the cultivation of barley, wheat, and orchards. There is not a single tree in all this space; but the land is covered with high verdant grass, which every where announces the abundance of productive salts with which it is impregnated. This land is undulated on all sides by an infinity of small hills, with springs of water at every step. Nothing could be easier than to plant orchards in it, or even woods, either of which would succeed extremely well.

In another respect, these two provinces offer a new branch of commerce to the other nations of Europe. Bounded by the Dniester and the Danube, both of which

flow into the Black Sea, their ports receive ships from the Mediterranean, which can arrive in three days from the Bosphorus to Galatz and Brailow. The ships of Bavaria, Austria, and Hungary, might all, in a short time, be received there. Hitherto no commerce has been attempted in these parts by foreigners with the Walachians and Moldavians. The Greeks and the Turks are the only nations who to the present time have any concerns with them; and the enterprises of these have been so feeble and languid, that the advantages which have resulted from them have been almost nothing, in comparison with those which might easily be realised. Time, which brings about every kind of revolution, may naturally be expected to produce one in these two provinces; but is not such an individual revolution essentially connected with the fate of the Ottoman empire in Europe? This question can be decided only by the event.

We were at more than forty werstes from Fockschani, when we discovered the mountains on which it is situated, in the district of Slam-Ribhik, belonging to the hospodar.

A small arm of the Milkow runs through it, which separates Walachia from Moldavia, and divides the town into two parts. In that which is subject to Walachia we reckoned fourteen churches, six of which were built of brick, and a convent subject to the Greek archbishop of Salonica, capital of Macedonia.

Fockschani was formerly a considerable commercial place, in which were paid the duties levied on the merchandize sent out of the two principalities; but it was burnt by the Turks during the last war. It was at a short distance from this town that the Russians gained over the latter a decided victory. We perceived from a great distance the different mountains on which it is situated. At thirty werstes from thence, or thereabout, is the convent of Otobetschsti, which is subject to the archimandrite of this town. The road was pretty nearly the same as when we passed through it the preceding year.

On Tuesday the $\frac{2}{13}$ May, as we had forty-five werstes to travel, we quitted Tekutsch at sun-rising, and proceeded along the Berlat. Crossing the plains, we discovered many

villages and houses; and what caused us no less pleasure, was the flourishing state of cultivation this country exhibited. We had repeated opportunities of remarking as we went along, that the vicinity and numerous relations of the Russians with the Moldavians had produced the greatest influence on the character and manners of the latter. They manifest the utmost eagerness to divide their abode with the Muscovites, and there is every appearance that this good intelligence will daily increase. We were equally struck with the resemblance which exists in the features of the one and the other, though a very short time has elapsed since these two people began to intermingle.

On the road there are a few inns scattered here and there, kept by peasants with whom the traveller is sure at least of being accommodated with bread and wine, the advantage of which is more sensibly felt, as they are very rarely met with in other cantons, and but lately established even on this road.

After having journeyed for almost two hours, we began to perceive that the country

became more mountainous and woody. The road lay between bushes planted in right lines, assuming the appearance of avenues, and in other places across lands and fields sowed with grain of different sorts. This varied succession of hills, plains, and fields covered with maize, the verdure of which is extremely agreeable, appeared like so many English gardens, which we contemplated with the most soothing satisfaction. All the road as far as Berlat was pretty nearly the same. In this place we occupied the same apartments as in the preceding year. The comparing them with those we had just left at Tekutsch gave them the appearance of being smaller and meaner than they really were. However, the inhabitants of Berlat are much more comfortable in their circumstances than those of Tekutsch; and it is impossible to understand better than they do every thing that concerns rural economy. We crossed by a wooden bridge the little river Berlat, which in this place winds through a delightful valley. The ambassador was no sooner arrived and established in the pleasant house he had occupied the

year before, than the Moldavian boyards resident here eagerly hastened to pay their respects to him.

We had rested two days when the consul-general of Jassy, M. de Severin, arrived at Berlat for the purpose of congratulating M. de Kotusow on his safe arrival. This interview being founded on the simple motive of politeness, nothing passed in it that appears to me worthy of remark.

On Friday $\frac{5}{16}$ May, about five o'clock in the morning, we left Berlat, and directed our march through a valley which stretches amongst tilled lands and meadows, as far as the neighbourhood of the little village of Dokolina, where the country assumes a different appearance, and is considerably finer. We here found a quantity of trees and brushwood, which cover the two banks of the Berlat, in which direction we proceeded, but at a certain distance from the river itself. Amongst these woody portions of land we frequently discovered meadows filled with grass, the height of which indicated the fertility of the soil. It was not nine o'clock when we arrived in the little hamlet where

we were obliged to encamp. After having crossed the Berlat by a wooden bridge, we saw at a small distance from the shore a large quantity of bee-hives. The cultivation of bees is a very common occupation in Moldavia, and those persons who follow it are amply recompensed by the great quantity of honey and wax they produce.

On Saturday, towards four o'clock in the morning, we quitted our camp, and still proceeded along the same valley, at a small distance from the Berlat. After an hour's march we arrived in a swampy bottom, crossed by a kind of long bridge formed of thick planks laid by the side of each other. Quitting this road, which was not nearly so good and smooth as that of the preceding day, we again found ourselves near the Berlat, whose banks afford the most pleasing view, being almost every where adorned with woods; it flows in an irregular course, here near the hillocks and mountains, there across beautiful plains or in the middle of a thick and retired forest, and has always the appearance of returning to its original seat, as if unwilling to abandon so beautiful a

spot. There are very few countries in Europe, or at least I am unacquainted with any, in which the distribution of plains, hills, and mountains, is so admirably calculated for the purposes of agriculture and perspective as in Moldavia. The face of nature is grander and more majestic in Switzerland; but here she is more soft and alluring, if I may venture to use this expression.

Our road lay along the side of the mountain that faces this river, which is bordered with woods, extending towards the road, The warblings of a great number of nightingales, and other birds of different kinds, added new charms to this beautiful morning; so that we reached almost insensibly the town of Waslui, situated on an eminence in a mountainous and woody country.

The position of this little town is infinitely finer than that of Berlat. It is washed by the small river of the same name, which runs at the foot of the mountain. Our quarters on this day were at least as good as those we enjoyed at Tekutsch. We were in the house of the cadi of the town. It

was with great difficulty we prevailed upon him to quit the apartment he occupied with his family. We regretted the more the inconvenience we caused him, as it lasted till Sunday, on account of the stay we made in this place.

I took advantage of this day of repose to ramble about the pleasant environs of this town, and to visit a small village at a short distance. The culture of the ground is in general well understood in this canton; and the Moldavians would pursue this object to a still higher degree of perfection, if they were not from time to time obliged to quit their houses, on account of the continual wars, of which this country is the theatre. I next gained a small wood, filled with the most beautiful trees, and a considerable number of birds, whose notes appeared to me equally sweet and various. After having proceeded for about an hour, I arrived at a bridge which crosses the Berlat; on the other side of which I met with plains, here and there intersected with mountains covered with wood. As night was advancing, I was

obliged to give up my walk, in spite of the pleasure it afforded me, and to resume the road to Waslui.

The next day, being obliged to travel two long stages, we quitted our quarters at four o'clock in the morning, still proceeding along the same valley, where we had to cross some gentle acclivities. To our right we beheld nothing but woods, which, with the exception of a few tolerably well cultivated fields, occupied all the breadth of the valley. The banks of the Berlat and the Bachlui, which run along these woods, are in general extremely rough and steep. About half way through the valley, we passed near the little village of Untscheschty, surrounded with woods, which form a sort of amphitheatre. In this place the ambassador stopped and breakfasted. We then again pursued the same route in the valley, till we arrived in the environs of Skintey, where we encamped. This little village is situated on the declivity of a mountain; and at a small distance from it are many thick woods, and a great number of considerable villages.

We left our camp the next day about six o'clock, and took a direction towards a forest which surrounded us on all sides. After having crossed several wooden bridges over the Bachlui, we reached a road much more mountainous and difficult than that we had hitherto followed. From the highest part of the last of these mountains we discovered the whole town of Jassy, and soon after perceived several Moldavians on horseback coming to meet us, carrying two banners, and long lances, similar to those of the Cossacks of the Don. It was past eight o'clock when we arrived at our camp, pitched beyond a wood, at five werstes from the town, and surrounded on three sides by mountains and woods. Before us were several vine inclosures, and a great number of pretty country houses. On the mountain the nearest to us we perceived a convent, which had served for an hospital to our troops during the last war. The ambassador was lodged in a kind of under-ground cellar, to which two staircases conducted. We were no sooner established in this situation than several Moldavian boyards arrived, accompanying the nephew of the prince,

who all again departed as soon as they had paid their visit to the ambassador.

On Wednesday the $\frac{10}{21}$ May we disposed our retinue for our entrance into Jassy. The ambassador was on horseback. We had scarcely run over the small space of ground which remained of our journey for this day, before we reached an elevation from which we obtained a complete view of this large city. Very near this place we met with an assemblage of Bohemians, encamped along the road on our right,

The Bohemians, called also zigans, or cyganis, travel in troops, like the Tartars, and employ themselves in seeking, amongst the sands of different rivers, such as the Motra, Bistrica, and others of which I have already spoken, small pieces of gold, which furnish them with means of paying their annual tribute. These zigans are the only slaves in all Moldavia and Walachia. Those belonging to the prince are the *roudars* or carpenters, the *oursars*, and the *laiachis*. The *oursars* have received this name from the bears they lead about the country for gain. They are also farriers. The *laiachis*

work on copper, and, besides, apply themselves to all sorts of low trades. The *vatras*, or those who live in houses and inhabit villages, are exempted from the tribute, and work only for their masters.

With respect to the *zigan-roudars* of the hospodar, they pay a tribute of gold for the privilege of fishing in the rivers, and the others an annual tribute. The *zigan-vatras* belonging to individuals are subjected to the discretion of their masters. Almost all of them live under tents, and change the place of their abode according to the exigency of their affairs, and their views for paying the tax they owe to the prince.

The hospodar had fixed near Jassy, as in the preceding year, several tents, in which he treated his new guest and his retinue with equal politeness and magnificence. This prince, accompanied by a great number of the inhabitants of the town and persons attached to his court, advanced half a league to meet us, always observing the customary order. The procession was opened by Moldavian infantry and cavalry. Then followed several boyards on horseback, followed by a

quantity of other horses decked in their richest housings. The hospodar closed the march, in a state-coach drawn by six white horses, and escorted by a certain number of his Turkish guards.

Our camp, which was disposed with equal order and cleanliness, was placed in a situation commanding a view of the town, and in the vicinity of a magnificent garden. We assembled about noon at the ambassador's, where we were treated with a most splendid dinner, at which the Moldavian boyards, as well as the hospodar, were present, Music, accompanied by singing, played during the whole time of the dinner, affording us greater pleasure than the concerts we had heard among the Turks. It must not, however, be understood, that there were amongst them either the skilful masters of Germany, or the virtuosos of Italy. The whole talent of these musicians consisted in executing little airs or rondeaus that are commonly sung in the country. Walking about the environs of the town towards the evening, I was enchanted with the activity exercised by these poor Moldavians in rebuilding their houses, that

had been totally destroyed during the war.

The next day we had a gala and ball at the hospodar's. The entertainment took place in the same apartment in which the treaty of peace had been concluded. There were present a great number of boyards dressed in their habits of ceremony. The prince is a little man with a pleasing countenance, to which his long white beard gave an air of gravity, which is common to all the Turkish noblemen. He was seated with his wife and all his family after the custom of the country, that is to say, with their legs crossed on large cushions, in an apartment near to that where the gala was held. During the repast, in which every thing was conducted with the strictest ceremony, music was introduced, which lasted till the evening, at which time the ladies began to dance.

The Moldavian dances differ very much from those of other nations. They do not dance two or four together as in France or Poland, but the men and women form a circle, holding each other by the hand, with their feet turned inwards; the long red

breeches of the men reaching down to their heels; the ladies covered from the shoulders to below the waist with a pelisse, the fur of which is outside, and which gives them the appearance of a vast size at the belly and a compressure at the knees. In this posture they move their arms methodically, and as it were by springs. Their feet go backwards and forwards, and pass at the same moment from before to behind, and from behind to before. The back round, the neck stiff, the eye melancholy and fixed, they turn in cadence from time to time, from the right to the left, and from the left to the right. This dance is very amusing, and is called the *chora*. When the dancers form simply a long chain, joining hands, and then quitting each other for each dancer to make the steps and movements he pleases, it is called simply *dantsch*, a Polonese expression, which, with us, answers to what we call the *galopade* or rather the *anglaise*. This last is the most in usage in Moldavian weddings.

Besides this dance, which is common on days of festival, there is another which owes its origin to superstition. The dancers should

always be in an uneven number, and it is called *kalutschenes.* They assemble together once a-year, are dressed like women, and have the head crowned with wormwood, or some other plant. They imitate the feminine voice to avoid being known, and their faces are covered with a white veil. They hold a naked sword in their hand in readiness to strike any person who should have the curiosity to attempt lifting up their veil; and whatever consequences might result, would be taken no cognizance of by the laws. The conductor of this band of dancers is called *staritza,* and his coadjutor is called *primicerius.* The employment of the latter is to ask the chief what dance he chooses to have executed, the name of which he secretly communicates to the rest of the troop, so that the spectators hear nothing of it. Immediately begins the dance mentioned by the *staritza,* the movements of which are as rapid and varied as the different figures formed by the dancers. These dances continue during the ten days between the Ascension and Whitsuntide. During all this time these dancers sleep no where but in the

churches, and the people who follow them are too much afraid of sorcerers to choose themselves a different lodging.

When one troop of *kalutschenes* meets another, they immediately fight. The vanquished are obliged to yield place to the vanquishers; and the conditions of peace are, that, during nine succeeding years, the vanquished troop shall acknowledge subjection to the other. The law never interferes in this arrangement, not even if any of the combatants should have perished in the contest. Whoever associates himself to one of these troops, is obliged to remain in it for nine years. If he leaves it before the expiration of that time, it is believed that evil spirits will not fail to punish his desertion.

The superstitious portion of the people attribute to these *kalutschenes* the power of curing chronical diseases, and the cure is undertaken in the following manner:—The patient lies on the ground, and each dancer, at a certain passage of the song which accompanies the dance, walks lightly over his body from the head to the feet, then mut-

ters some words in his ear, which are intended for a spell to the disease, and to compel it to withdraw. After having repeated the same ceremony during three days, *the cure*, add the people, *is necessarily completed*; and all that the most skilful physicians could not effect is thus brought about with the most miraculous facility. Such is the ridiculous credulity of superstition.

The next day I quitted the general quarters, and lodged in a larger and more convenient apartment in the house of captain Isprawnik. This court officer is inspector to the prince's household, and purveyor of the bread and other inferior expenses. On this same day the ambassador sent presents to the hospodar and to his lady, by Lebedew, first secretary and counsellor of state. They consisted of a pelisse made of the skin of a black fox, and valued at more than three hundred roubles; with four marten skins from Kamtschatka, worth four hundred; an ermine fur, estimated at eighty; and, in addition, ten pounds of tea, and the same quantity of rhubarb. The presents for the princess were composed of an aigrette of diamonds, valued at

six thousand roubles, three pieces of gold stuff worth about three hundred, and ten pounds of tea. The hospodar in return sent to M. de Kotusow some gold watches set in pearls.

In the morning of Saturday, I visited two convents. These are the only monuments that are worth the trouble of noticing in this town. The first, built in a modern construction, is decorated with a great number of columns which present no object worthy of curiosity. The second is the convent of the *Three Saints*, built by Wasilius, hospodar of Moldavia. It encloses the relics of St. Paraskowy. Eighty workmen were occupied during fifty years in constructing it. It is a very considerable edifice, and exhibits vestiges of the remotest antiquity.

The quantity of ornaments which belong to it, all ranged in the order of their respective styles, must have been an object of infinite labour to the architect who executed it. These ornaments are in general very beautiful, and distributed with equal skill and taste.

This architect was but indifferently re-

compensed for his zeal and activity, to judge by the legend or inscription which still exists. It is said, that, as soon as the undertaking was finished, he was put to death, under the apprehension of his building a similar edifice in some other place.

In the evening there was a ball and supper at the ambassador's. All the Moldavian boyards, with their ladies decorated with a large quantity of pearls and diamonds, were present at it, and also the hospodar. Our Russian music was on this day substituted for that of the country, and all the ladies agreed in according it the preference it so justly deserves over that of Moldavia.

We did not quit Jassy to go on to Resina till about nine o'clock on Monday morning. Our departure was attended with the usual pomp, and a considerable escort of Moldavians and principal officers of the town. The hospodar again repaired to a camp he had pitched at a small distance, where he gave us an excellent and magnificent breakfast.

I am unwilling to quit this capital of Mol-

davia without saying a few words of the province in general, and without giving some details in regard to the form of its government, and the character of its inhabitants.

A small degree of attention to the ancient history and geography of this country is sufficient to recal to our recollection, that what is now called Moldavia, together with the countries lying to the west of this province, was formerly occupied by the Scythians. Besides the different denominations derived by the inhabitants from the different hordes dispersed all over the country, the Greeks named them successively *Getæ, Dacians,* &c.; and this last name was preserved till the time of the Romans. Trajan, having defeated Decebalus who reigned there, divided his states into several parts, and settled there a colony collected from the refuse of the principal towns of the Roman empire and Greece. The descendants of this colony, who inherited the vices and the cowardice of their progenitors, were afterwards conquered, and held in a state of subjection by the Sarmatians, the Huns, and

the Goths. After a period of about a hundred years, that is to say, towards the end of the twelfth century, this people having considerably increased, and finding themselves too much confined in the country they had subdued, conceived the project of extending themselves, and of pushing their conquests still further. Dragosch, son of their prince Bogdan, apprehensive of causing some uneasiness to the neighbouring people, advanced into the country in the simple habit of a sportsman, with an escort of three hundred men, in order to judge by his own eyes against what parts it would be most advantageous to the subjects of his father to direct their attempts, and where to form the settlements which were the object of their desires.

Having accidentally met with a buffalo, they pursued him to the foot of the mountains. A young sporting bitch called *Molda*, of which the prince was very fond, pursued the animal so long, that he at length threw himself into a river, where he was killed with arrows. The rapidity of the current causing the death of the young

bitch who had pursued the buffalo into the water, Dragosch was so affected with her loss, that he gave the river the name of Molda, and the inhabitants of the spot where this event took place that of Romans; and took himself for a coat of arms the head of a bull, which afterwards became the arms of this province.

Dragosch, at his return from this expedition, related to his father's court all that he had seen in the country he had visited, which immediately inspired those who heard him with the desire of establishing themselves in it. A troop of Romans having joined him, they set out and arrived in this country, where the young prince was declared king. From this moment it lost its name of Dacian and Roman, and acquired that of Moldavia, which was unanimously bestowed upon it by all the neighbouring people, and even by its own inhabitants. The Turks, who afterwards subdued this country, called it *Ak-Walch*, or rather *Ak-Iflak*, that is to say *White Walachia*, in opposition to *Cara-Iflak*, *Black Walachia*, or Walachia properly called.

Stephen the Great, king of Hungary, under

whose protection Walachia and Moldavia had voluntarily placed themselves, having advised his son Bogdan to restore these two provinces to the Turks for a fief, the latter, accustomed to give to the countries under their subjection the names of the sovereigns who governed them, gave that of Bogdan to the district which had lately been ceded to them by the prince so called; but that of Moldavia has prevailed in the Tartarian language, and is preserved to the present time.

The Turks, become the protectors and sovereign lords of these provinces, contented themselves with exacting a certain tribute from them, leaving them the liberty of electing their princes and their boyards. The Greek religion, which had been here propagated by the monks at the epocha of the schism, became from that time the established religion; consequently the bishops and monks soon became its real sovereigns. The towns, the villages, and almost all the lands of these provinces, were the property of the priests and monasteries. The Turks, content with the tribute and submission of

these religious usurpers, suffered them to enjoy peaceably these advantages. The reign of the Greek families in this country began in the person of the celebrated physician Maurocordato. He was made prince of Moldavia; and from that time his family have always reigned either over this province or Walachia, till the last wars between the Russians and Turks. The families of Cantemir, Blancovan, Gika, &c. have held the same rank; but, in general, neither of those families have more claim to these two principalities than a rich merchant or Christian Greek artisan, who has the power to give a sufficient sum of money to the grand-visir, or the reis-effendi, to purchase the dignity of hospodar.

Moldavia, which is contiguous to Walachia, is nearly of the same extent, both in length and breadth; that is to say, about eighty leagues long, and seventy wide. The boundaries of this province have so considerably varied within a few years, in consequence of the successive wars which have happened in it, that it would be extremely difficult to ascertain at present its exact extent and limits.

It is divided into Upper and Lower Moldavia; the Upper, which joins Transylvania, is filled with mountains; the Lower, situated towards the Ukraine, Bessarabia, and the Danube, presents a continuation of plains that occasions a difference in the climate. It is colder and more wholesome in the mountainous part than in the plains, in which very violent winds frequently prevail. This climate is very similar to that of the provinces in France heretofore called Burgundy and Champagne. The air in general does not possess the elasticity and spring which characterise our western provinces. This is very manifest in the melancholy temper and inertness of the inhabitants. Though epidemical disorders are not common in this country, it is singular to find amongst them a person having attained the age of sixty years, and still more so that of eighty. The soil of the plains and valleys is commonly composed of a clayey black-looking earth, very favourable to all sorts of grain, particularly to wheat, which yields here a very plentiful harvest. The soil which covers the mountains and rising groundsis commonly of a grey co-

lour, indicating a more considerable mixture of nitre and sand. The soil, however, is in general so fertile throughout Moldavia, that a common proverb among the inhabitants is, *that millet has not more shell in Lower Moldavia than apples have rind in the Upper.*

All the vineyards situated between Cotnar and the Danube possess so remarkable a fertility, that one single *pogon** of grapes frequently produces five hundred pints of wine. The most celebrated is that which is produced in the environs of Cotnar, a small town in the district of Harlew. This wine is not very much sought after, as it loses its strength, if care is not taken to put it into clean vessels, and to avoid moving it without first drawing it off from its sediment. It is without contradiction the most excellent and generous wine in Europe, even surpassing in quality the best Tokay. When it has been kept only three years in a deep and arched cellar, it is as strong as the best brandy, and I defy the hardest drinker to take three glasses of it without being drunk; however, it is not

* The pogon is a portion of land which contains twenty-four square fathoms. It is measured with cords marked with the seal of the hospodar.

heady. One remarkable quality of this wine is its being of a green colour, which becomes deeper and more lively in proportion to its age.

Moldavia produces a great many horses. The most esteemed are those of the mountains. They are of a small size, and in strength and speed very similar to those of Russia. Such as are reared in the plains are larger, handsomer, and very much sought after by the Poles and Hungarians. The Turks esteem them so much, that it is a received proverb amongst them, that a young Persian boy, and a Moldavian horse, are the two most perfect beings produced by nature. All sorts of large game are also met with in very great abundance here; and the sportsman easily finds objects on which to exercise his industry. The forests and the mountains are filled with roebucks, deer, boars, &c. The carnivorous animals which inhabit these tracts are foxes, bears, wolves, &c. There is, besides, a particular kind of wolves which frequent the plains, and are of a smaller size than those which are found in the mountains. These wolves are particularly attached to the banks of the Danube, and

make their retreat among the reeds of the lakes and marshes which communicate with it. They exist in large numbers, and do great injury to the flocks. The quantity of small game is still more considerable than the quadrupeds. Partridges and bustards are found here in very great abundance, particularly in the vicinity of the Danube, and are exceedingly high flavoured. There is also here, and particularly on the frontier of Pocutja, a bird called by the inhabitants of the country *jerunla*, by the Poles *gluschka*, that is to say, the *deaf*. It resembles the heathcock, excepting that it is smaller, and totally deprived of the faculty of hearing. When a sportsman perceives a covey of them perched on the trees, he is sure of killing all of them, one after another, without their being the least terrified by the sound of the gun, or induced to change their place. This bird has white and delicate flesh, and in flavour surpasses even the partridge and pheasant.

It is sufficient to be acquainted with eastern despotism to have already formed an idea of the government I am about to describe,

Moldavia and Walachia, as well as all the rest of the Ottoman empire, possess no written or printed laws. All their affairs are judged according to the interest or caprice of the prince, or the intrigues of his ministers. Whoever has the means of giving the most considerable sum to the favourite of his highness is sure to gain his cause. All the reasonings, all the proofs of right in an affair, are incompetent to produce any influence with judges who pronounce a verdict with their lips, and scarcely ever in writing. If it happens by chance that such verdict is transcribed on a loose sheet of paper, it does not from this circumstance become a greater security in the hands of him who has obtained this favour; for there exist no rolls or chancery in which it could be deposited. One would believe, that when the prince has sworn by his beard, as is the custom, that the judgment is irrevocable; and it would in fact be so, if there were no money in the country.

Nothing is so common as to see one trial recommenced ten times under the same prince, or under his successor. Let Rous-

seau then again tell us, that barbarous nations possessing no laws are in a better condition than those who live under a regular government. He should be desired to go and reside one year in the forest of Moldavia.

The hospodars of this province, as well as those of Walachia, have the title of *most serene highness,* which was given them by the republic of Venice, and which the other princes of Europe have also consented to allow them; though in fact the hospodars can only be considered as farmers of the Ottoman empire, and not as the equals of the princes of Germany or other countries. Their first officer is called the grand *postelnik,* and is a kind of first minister, every thing at court being transacted under his directions. He is also the inspector over the soldiers that are sent on duty to Constantinople, and are ordinarily called the beszlis. He possesses, properly speaking, neither vote nor seat in the privy-council. Notwithstanding this, there are circumstances in which he becomes the plenipotentiary of the prince, and the interpreter of his will. His daily employment at court consists in

incessantly going in and out of the large hall, where the hospodar sits, carrying a black truncheon, at the top of which is a golden ball; and the truncheon is the mark of his dignity. The reason of this coming and going is to report to the prince the decision of the divan, or supreme tribunal of the country, which is held in a contiguous apartment, and is composed of twelve boyards, or lords of the first class, who for this reason are commonly called *the twelve*. The dignity of this class of boyards is as ancient as the government of the hospodars. This system appears to have commenced from the time of Rade the Great, who, by the advice of the patriarch Nifone, as it is pretended, placed the offices of this country on the same footing they enjoy at Constantinople, to judge by the denominations which have been given to them.

There are a second and third postelnik, who also carry a black truncheon; but these are mere subaltern officers, or rather deputies to the grand postelnik. Like him they also enjoy the privilege of entering the cabinet of the hospodar, a prerogative which is not enjoyed by any of the three classes of boyards.

The second minister is called *comisnar*. It is he who is initiated in all the political secrets of the prince. Next comes the high chancellor, without a chancery, as I have already mentioned. He is in some measure the president and director of the council of the Twelve. His office is to present to the prince the demands of the barons or boyards. It is for this reason that he has preserved the Greek denomination of *logotheta*. He also enjoys the privilege of fixing the limits of the country, and the property of individuals. The mark of his dignity is a globe of some size which he wears at his neck, and is suspended by a golden chain. At the time when Moldavia was in its highest splendor, the government of Moncastrum, now called Akkierman, was united to this place; but the Turks having made themselves masters of the town, this officer has preserved but the tenth part of the district of Tschernauci. There is also the second and the third logotheta, whose office is to dispatch all papers concerning the government of the country, decrees, letters, patents, sentences, pensions,

&c. granted by the hospodar. Each of these are dependent on the caminar.

The *wisternik*, or grand-treasurer, collects the public revenues, and pays out of the royal treasury the draughts or ordonnances signed by the prince. He has a right of attending the privy-council, but he is prohibited from speaking in it.

The grand *camerask*, or first chamberlain, holds the charge of buying pelisses and papouches for his highness and his family.

The grand *paharnik*, or cup-bearer, holds the cup to the prince on all occasions of ceremony, or on days of festival. To him belongs the inspection of all the vineyards which are the property of the prince. No person has permission to begin his vintage till they have made him some presents that procure them authority to gather their grapes, which generally takes place towards the middle of September. This officer is also governor of the canton of Cotnar, known by the excellent wines which I have already had occasion to mention.

The grand *comis*, or great equerry, has the

superintendance of the prince's stables, as well as of the Branissa, a large and spacious meadow, situated on the banks of the Pruth. To him belongs also the care of his carriages and other equipages. A part of the revenues of his place is drawn from the great number of water-mills constructed on the Pruth, and which every third year are obliged to pay him a rent of twenty rix-dollars or crowns of the empire.

The grand stolnik or grand master of the table has the inspection of all that relates to the kitchen of the hospodar. On days of ceremony he adjusts the dishes, and is obliged to stand opposite to the prince till he has drunk three times. Besides these, there are still a great number of other officers attached to the service of the court; but it would be too tedious to particularise in this place the nature of their employments.

The hospodar never goes to church, or walks out,—in a word, never shows himself to his subjects,—without being followed by all the officers I have just mentioned. Field marshal de Romanzow having one day invited prince Gregory Gika to take a walk with him in

the town of Jassy. "*What would my subjects say,*" replied the prince, excusing himself, "*if they were to see their sovereign on foot? I beg your excellency to excuse me.*"

Moldavia, as well as Walachia, is divided into several districts, each of which has its *ispravenik* or governor, chosen by the hospodar. The ispraveniks have as it were no other employment than the permission to rob and defraud wherever they can, and these occasions furnish examples of the skill of the modern Greeks. When these officers are not satisfied with what they gain, they have the address to bring about some prosecution against wealthy persons, who never find means of terminating it but by dint of money. This audacious and unjust practice occasions the merchants and citizens to make presents incessantly to the prince and his officers, under the apprehension of being condemned at some time or other to pay still more considerable sums.

The palace in which the prince of Moldavia resides is an old castle, which served for a stable and infirmary to the Russians during the last war. The apartments in it are

very spacious; and almost all the furniture it contains is placed in one only of them, which is commonly occupied by the hospodar. Domestic economy is carried so far in the palace of this sovereign, as to exhibit a parsimony at his table that is not practised even amongst the most humble individuals of France or any other neighbouring country. But when this prince wishes to display his magnificence and wealth, his tables are covered with china and plate. What is very singular in the economy of these Moldavian and Walachian despots is, that their money, jewels, apparel, and furniture, are always kept in boxes, or travelling coffers, as if they every minute expected to remove. In fact they are not to blame, having constantly the apprehension of being deposed by force, or carried away and murdered, in case of which event this precaution would enable their family to preserve at least their most valuable effects.

All the male children of the princes are called *bezadles*, which name they preserve during life, but it does not entitle them to inherit their father's rank. Money is the

consideration which prevails over every thing else at the Sublime Porte. The condition of these bezades is often more pitiable than that of the son of the merest artisan. At Bucharest, Jassy, and Constantinople, many of them have been observed in a state of indigence, on whom the reigning princes bestow small pensions, barely sufficient for the necessaries of life.

The town of Jassy contains about thirty thousand inhabitants. The capital of Walachia contains nearly double this number; neither of these towns have any walls, and the houses they contain are detached from each other. There exist at Jassy some schools to which has been given the ostentatious name of *gymnasia*, in which two or three ignorant monks give lessons in Latin, Greek, and theology. Prince Ypsilanti has attracted to Walachia many men of erudition, who have already diffused in it a certain degree of learning, which will no doubt become more extensive, if it meet with no opposition from the restless despotism of the Porte.

Let us now say a few words on the man-

ners of the Moldavians. "Take away," says prince Kantemir, in the description he has published of Moldavia, "take away from this people their orthodoxy in religion and their love of hospitality, and very little can be said in their commendation." The Moldavians, in common with other nations, have their faults and their virtues; these last are less prevalent amongst them, because their want of education leaves them little facility to acquire them, and because they possess no other means than those bestowed by nature to become virtuous.

Haughtiness and pride appear to be born with the Moldavian. If he happens to have a good horse and excellent arms, he believes himself the first of men; and, during his paroxysm of vanity, he would declare war against the most formidable potentate of the universe. The Moldavian is in general audacious, daring, and quarrelsome; but he is appeased with the same facility as he is offended. The manner in which the peasants and even the soldiers fight among each other is by blows with the fist and stick. Whoever should have recourse to the sword

to settle his quarrel would be severely punished by the laws of the country. The Moldavians are in general very jocose, and with difficulty suppress their pleasantry when furnished with a subject for it. Sentiments of animosity are as soon extinguished with them as those of friendship. They are naturally inclined to drunkenness; and sometimes pass whole days in drinking, particularly at festivals, or during the time of inclement weather. Soldiers are almost the only persons who drink brandy; or if on any particular occasion the Moldavians allow themselves to drink it, they limit themselves to a small glass before their meals. The inhabitants of Lower Moldavia and those of the frontier of Walachia are passionately fond of wine. A question arose one day, whether the Moldavian or the Walachian was the best drinker? The persons concerned in the wager met on the bridge at Fokschany, which separates Moldavia from Walachia. They pursued their enterprise, till at length a Walachian fell dead on the spot, suffocated by the quantity of wine he had drunk. The Moldavians were compensated for the victory

they had gained, by letters of nobility bestowed upon them by the hospodar.

The men handle the bow, and lanch the javelin, with the greatest dexterity. They almost always wear a sword by their side, and none but sportsmen carry guns. The Moldavians consider as cowardice the using this destructive weapon against an enemy. They go to the attack with infinite intrepidity; but their petulance becomes more moderate when they are obliged to return to the charge, to which no consideration can induce them, when they have been twice driven back. After the example of the Tartars, they sometimes feign to fly from the thick of the fight, in order to draw the enemy after them, and by this stratagem to wrest from him a victory of which he believed himself secure. They sometimes manifest themselves to be very cruel, and sometimes full of clemency, when they are victorious; but if their enemy is a Turk or Tartar, they consider it as an act of religion to kill him immediately, and he among them who was weak enough to spare him would be regarded as a traitor and an unbeliever.

Moderation is a virtue unknown to the Moldavians. They are haughty in prosperity, and effeminate and cowardly in adversity. Nothing appears a task to them on the first view; but if they experience the least difficulty, or the most trivial resistance, they are instantly discouraged, and no longer know what step to resolve on.

The Moldavians are not only unaddicted to the sciences, but they even hate every thing which any way relates to them, and are ignorant even of the name of the fine arts and *belles lettres*. They believe that science destroys the exercise of reason; and when they speak of a learned person, they say, that *the confusion of subjects he has assembled in his mind has rendered him insane.* "*Study,*" add they, "*is only suitable for priests. It is not necessary for a layman to know any thing more than to read and write, to sign his name, or make a memorandum if his ox, his horse, or his sheep, be black or white; all other knowledge is superfluous.*"

The Moldavians, as well as the Walachians, are in general robust and well built. One quality among these people which might be

of great advantage to military politics is, that they are good soldiers, and perform the military exercise with surprising agility and address. A remarkable circumstance among all nations is, that what they learn with the greatest facility is the art of murdering their fellow creatures. The inhabitants of Lower Moldavia, through their long habit of being in a state of war with the Tartars, understand the business of arms better than the rest of their countrymen. They are also more restless; and when they have no enemies to combat against, they not unfrequently revolt against their chiefs, and even against the hospodar himself. They are extremely ignorant on every subject relating to religion. They believe in predestination; and pretend that the author of all things has predetermined the term of the career of every individual, and that nothing can either prolong or abridge its duration. They are so impressed with this idea, that they plunge into the heat of a battle without once reflecting on the probable consequences. The inhabitants of Upper Moldavia, being less accustomed to the use of arms, possess a more tranquil character. They carry

their attachment to all the forms of their religion to absolute fanaticism: of consequence a great number of churches exist in these districts, to say nothing of the convents and hermitages with which the mountains are filled. The hospodar has always found in these Moldavians very faithful subjects; and, when any troubles have occurred in the country, they have been excited by the barons and boyards of Lower Moldavia.

The Moldavians are far from considering the assassination of a Turk, Armenian, or Jew, as contrary to the laws of society. In general, they are not addicted to theft; however, those in the neighbourhood of Tartary ravage without scruple, and particularly the Tartars, considering that they only take what belongs to themselves; whilst these Tartars, on the contrary, have stolen what they possess either from their parents or even from some of themselves.

The dress of the peasants consists of a long robe of coarse grey cloth, close bodied, and with large sleeves. The citizens, merchants, and boyards, wear the pelisse, as I have already mentioned. This dress, which is easy

and very large, does not constrain their limbs or joints. Riding on horseback is the only exercise they are fond of; and during the fine season, it is very common to see their youth exert themselves in lanching the *djerid* or *girit*, after the manner of the Turks.

The young noblemen destined for places, whether in the court of the hospodar or the provinces, learn the Latin, French, and Italian languages; but very few of them are tolerably versed in them. The morality of the priests, and the philosophy of Aristotle, are the only sources of knowledge they possess.

The character of the Walachians is in general more lively than that of the Moldavians; they have also more intellect and courage. They exercise hospitality with equal pleasure and avidity; and, notwithstanding their narrow circumstances, occasioned as much by the ravages of war as by the vicinity of the Tartars who pillage them unmercifully, they never refuse to receive at their houses any stranger that asks of them an asylum. They even furnish both them and their

horses, during three days, with every necessary accommodation, without receiving any recompense in return. The inhabitants of Waslui are the only exceptions to this eagerness of hospitality. These latter not only shut their doors to strangers, but even dress themselves in rags, and at first sight of a traveller go out to meet him to ask alms.

The Moldavian and Walachian women are in general tolerably handsome: they have a fair complexion, but are for the most part pale. Very few of them have light hair; but a great number have light brown hair, and black eyes fringed with long eyelashes, and full of fire and vivacity. The dress of the wealthy women is a kind of long gown without folds, which hangs on the body, and is fastened with a belt under the breast, so as to exhibit that charming appendant of female beauty with every advantage to the curious eye of beholders. To this robe they add a pelisse, which they always put on when they go out, even in summer. The female peasants, who have not the means of procuring this robe and pelisse,

content themselves with a chemise, ornamented with work on the shoulders, and a coarse linen apron, which they tie round the waist like a sash, and which descends as low as the calf of the leg. It is considered a breach of the rules of decency for a married woman or widow to suffer her hair to be seen; and it would be the greatest affront that could be offered to her to uncover her head in public. The young girls, on the contrary, would consider it dishonourable to cover their heads even with a simple veil, intending by this to give a high idea of their virtue and chastity. They twist their hair into tresses, sometimes letting it fall over their shoulders, or sometimes fastening it in the form of a helmet. They frequently add to this head-dress tufts of diamonds or flowers. The female peasants dress their hair simply, and form a sort of crown with it on the top of their heads.

Though the women in this country are not so vigilantly watched as among the Turks, they however very seldom quit their houses or show themselves in public, this being a licence enjoyed only by the lower

orders of people. The ladies are accused of being fond of wine. I have, notwithstanding, always heard that sobriety is one of the virtues, on the observance of which they pique themselves, and that this quality adds to the degree of esteem of which they are so tenacious. They eat as it were in secret; and they carry their attention to this object so far, that it is almost impossible to see their teeth when they are eating.

The fair sex of this country are singularly addicted to love; many instances of this occurred during the residence of the Russian troops in Moldavia and Walachia. Every soldier, as well as every officer, had his mistress, and all the women deserted their families to follow these conquerors of the Turks. Adultery, however, is very rare among the Moldavians. Unmarried youths do not consider it a breach of decency to indulge themselves during celibacy in secret amours; and it is common for their parents to say to them, "My son, take care never to steal, or to commit murder, because we have not the means of rescuing thee from the gallows; but thy life will never be in danger from an affair

of gallantry, provided thou hast sufficient to pay the tschugubinatey" or, in other words, the bawd, male or female.

The character of the women in these two provinces is mildness itself. The slaves of their parents, their husbands, and even of their lovers, the Moldavian and Walachian women acknowledge no other law, no other supreme will, than that of the men. The husband speaks, and the wife approaches him tremblingly, kisses his hand, and demands pardon. I do not know of any female, with the exception perhaps of the princesses, who can read or write. The Greeks pretend in this respect, that women should know no more than what their husbands choose to teach them.

The Walachian and Moldavian languages, excepting a few words, are the same; and principally derived from the Latin. Certain words from those of Turkey and Tartary have crept into it, and altogether form a barbarous language devoid of energy. Their written and printed characters are made up of Greek, Russian, and Tartarian. The vulgar Greek is the polite language of the

court of the hospodars and the barons, in which the Italian and the French are also spoken; and the taste which has manifested itself for works written in the latter language would be at present an excellent object of commerce, if the patriarch of Constantinople had not menaced with the anger of heaven all those who should read catholic books, and particularly the works of Voltaire.

In a space of near six hundred leagues in circumference, occupied by Moldavia and Walachia, there are not more than 600,000 inhabitants. I do not believe that there is any country in Europe in which so considerable a mixture of nations is to be found. Besides the Moldavians, whose ancestors came out of Transylvania, they are composed of Greeks, Albanians, Servians, Bulgarians, Poles, Cossacks, Russians, Hungarians, Germans, Armenians, Jews, and Bohemians or Zigans. The chronicles of Moldavia relate, that this province formerly contained more than 40,000 fighting men. The hospodar at present could not muster, at most, more than 10,000. His ordinary revenues amount to about 3,000,000 of livres

Tournois. Those of the prince of Walachia amount to nearly twice as much. It is out of these revenues that these princes pay a tribute to the Porte; the first, to the amount of a thousand bourses*, and the second fifteen hundred; without including the presents they are obliged to make to the grand officers of the seraglio, in order to retain their places. Let us now resume the historical part of our journey.

Leaving the camp near Jassy, where the hospodar had taken leave of us, we proceeded along a mountainous road, that conducted us to a height from which we enjoyed an extensive and most delightful prospect. At the foot of the mountain winds the little river Schischy, whose banks are adorned with several pleasant villages. The whole country is covered with trees and thickets. We discovered to our left the agreeable habitation of the celebrated count de Romanzow. Descending from the mountain, we found ourselves on the banks of the Schischy, which we crossed by a wooden bridge at some di-

* The bourse is equivalent to twelve hundred livres Tournois.

stance further. After going through a small wood, we arrived at a boat bridge on the Pruth. We next directed our steps towards the mountains, and another wood of rather large extent, at the extremity of which we discovered Resina, situated on a mountain divided by two valleys, in one of which a part of this village is built, and the other on the mountain. On all sides nothing is seen but gardens and plantations of fruit-trees, evincing the activity exercised by the Moldavians to enrich this country, and to repair the disasters caused by the war. On the back part of the mountain we observed a large extent of arable land, which appeared to us to be cultivated with the same attention. The part of the village we occupied was gloomy and ill lighted, but possessed a cleanliness which amply made us amends for this trifling disadvantage.

The next day we left Resina in very bad weather, which lasted the whole day. We observed on this road nothing but a succession of valleys and mountains, the latter of which were in general very elevated, particularly those which present themselves be-

yond the column built on the spot where prince Potemkin expired. The road here turns to the left, and proceeds along a mountain covered with thick wood, at the extremity of which our conductors lost their way; so that it was noon when we arrived in the village of Woltschinesti. Our quarters appeared doubly agreeable to us, in consequence of the extraordinary civilities exercised towards us by a charming young Moldavian woman in whose house we were lodged. The situation of this village is very fine. The houses are rather lonely in the wood and in the mountain; but this takes nothing from the beauty of the site of this canton, which appeared to us very highly cultivated. Madame de Kotusow, being informed of the arrival of her husband, came with her two daughters as far as this place to meet him. It would be difficult to witness a more affecting scene than this interview exhibited. A little gala was given in honour of the meeting; in which we all partook with so much the more eagerness and pleasure, as it furnished us an opportunity to demonstrate to our ambassador the esteem and gratitude

with which the particular attentions and kindness he had loaded us in the course of the journey had inspired us.

The nearer we approached to the frontier, the more occasions we had of admiring the care and activity with which these respectable Moldavians apply themselves to the cultivation of the ground. Vine inclosures, fields, and meadows, incessantly exhibiting new proofs of the industry of the inhabitants the more to increase the natural fertility of the soil, on all sides met our view. This country, successively laid waste by the gloomy politics of the Porte, and by the sanguinary wars of which it has incessantly been the scene, is now rapidly emerging from its ruins; and its prosperity cannot fail of increasing daily, if it be allowed to enjoy that repose of which it stands so much in need. The land every where presents the image of the most abundant fertility, which is greatly assisted by the quantity of rivers and springs it contains; a circumstance which these industrious inhabitants know how to turn to their advantage. It is this position of things which collects them again together after an

unhappy war, notwithstanding the continual apprehensions they suffer of being driven from their peaceful abodes. Though they have not yet enjoyed more than three years the sweets of peace, almost all the towns and villages are entirely repaired. If tranquillity were permitted to prevail during a few years in this country, every mark of destruction would be soon annihilated. But, as the prince who governs it is not sure of retaining his place two days together, his whole scheme of politics consists in ruining it by contributions and taxes, extorted with the view of providing a fund for himself in case of deposition or flight. In general, the dragomans of the Porte are the persons on whom the dignity of hospodar is bestowed, he who offers most being sure of obtaining it. The weakness of these princes, who are both created and dethroned by means of money, is a continual misfortune to the nation they govern. The result of this is, that the people are always at the mercy of a despotic and avaricious master, who is continued or set aside at will, according to the interest of the moment, and the greater or lesser want

of money experienced by the first officers of the court of Constantinople, who have always an interest either in causing the ruin of these princes, or sustaining them in their situations. The causes of this frequent and pernicious variation have already been pointed out in what we have said on the subject of Walachia, treating of the uncertain existence of the hospodars.

The Turks, through a refinement in politics, have left to these hospodars certain prerogatives tending to flatter their vanity. They have permitted them to preserve the title of prince, and to have a court and a numerous retinue of officers, which perpetuate the semblance of their past grandeur. Agreeably to this same policy, they never directly interfere with the interior government of the principality, being unwilling to shock the Walachians and Moldavians by an open and useless act of injustice. At the same time, self-interest has prevented the sultans from uniting these two provinces to their empire, and from declaring themselves absolute masters of them. Such an union would have occasioned them to lose a great part of

the revenues they at present draw from them; for, though they possess an absolute power over these countries, they have not that of raising new taxes in their own states, nor even of increasing those already established. Every sultan who has ventured on any innovation in this respect has always done it at the risque of his crown.

This political situation has added weight to the yoke attached to this people, and entirely destroyed the advantages bestowed upon them by nature. It is not astonishing that during a whole century scarcely a single prince has appeared, who has merited the commendations and attachment of his subjects, by wise and salutary regulations. Not one of them has had leisure enough for this kind of conduct; and all of them have necessarily been apprehensive of incurring the displeasure of masters inclined to jealousy, and not at all disposed to render the condition of the people either easier or happier.

Some hospodars have made an effort to establish certain regulations for the administration of justice; but they have served no other purpose than to render more intricate

the chaos of the laws. Several of these princes have also directed their attention to the subject of finances, but with the sole view of augmenting their revenues by taxes, without disquieting themselves in regard to the fatal effects these taxes must necessarily produce. In the number of these hospodars, the one who did the greatest injury to his country was Constantine Maurocordato. Without entering into an estimation of his moral character, we may assert, that he was a bad politician, and a worse financier. His first intentions were perhaps not reprehensible: it is even certain, that he gave a degree of order to the finances in the commencement of his reign; but in general he only employed palliatives against inveterate evils; and, with the exception of a few modifications, he never departed from the ancient plan, which was a vicious one. Far from thinking to rest the principal weight of the taxes on the productions and the consumption of the country, he increased the poll tax, and abandoned his other revenues to farmers, after the example of his predecessors.

This same Constantine Maurocordato, per-

ceiving himself on the point of being a victim to the cabals of his enemies, and of ceding his principality to his rivals, conceived that it would be possible to save himself by at once adding half a million of *lews* to the tribute he already paid to the Porte. This inconsiderate proceeding not only plunged his country into an abyss of misfortunes, but proved the source of his own disgrace. Five hundred thousand *lews*, payable at the commencement of each reign, was a sufficient inducement to the Turks for continually changing the hospodars, in order to obtain this sum the oftener; so that this expedient produced the double effect of ruining the country by insupportable burdens, and of degrading the dignity of the princes. But let us resume the thread of the narration of our journey.

Wednesday $\frac{17}{11}$ May was a day of repose, and we devoted the beautiful evening which terminated it to exploring the woods and mountains of Woltschinesti, which is considered as the most agreeable spot in all Moldavia. It is impossible to resist the constantly

renewed pleasure caused by its numerous orchards, delicious woods, and the quantity of villages scattered along the road.

On the following Thursday we quitted our quarters at three in the morning. The kind and gracious reception we had received from our young Moldavian hostess, the pleasure we had experienced in admiring the order and management which prevailed in her domestic arrangement, increased the regret we felt in taking leave of her. She appeared the more sensible of our gratitude, as the eagerness we manifested to convince her of it indicated less of that pride which is scrupulous of receiving obligations, than of the sentiments of a heart which seeks to pay what it owes, and which finds a new pleasure in acknowledging the value of the benefit it has received.

We continued our march in a valley, where we found tolerably good roads, notwithstanding several swamps, which we crossed by bridges, that had been constructed, or rather repaired, for our passage. Each side of the road is bordered by mountains covered

with woods. In two hours we arrived at Kalarasch, where our quarters were still more comfortable than the last. This village, as well as the greatest part of those in Moldavia, is situated on a range of eminences moderately high, and full of woods. The valley at the foot of them is extremely marshy, and strong dykes are erected to drain it.

As we had eight leagues to accomplish on the following day, we left Kalarasch at four o'clock in the morning. The road was in general pretty good and even. The woods, which cover the chain of mountains that appears on each side, are insensibly lost sight of, leaving the country a little more exposed to view. It was near ten o'clock when we arrived at Kischenevo, a little town situated in a plain on the Bugu, which empties itself into the Dneister. It contains two churches, which are tolerably handsome, built of stone, and on an eminence. Our quarters here were infinitely less agreeable than those at Woltschenesti. We were at the house of an old widow, who, with her son, had come from Dubassar to settle in this place. The comparison we made between

our new hostess and the charming Moldavian was greatly to the disadvantage of the former. An epidemical distemper, a very singular occurrence in this country, as we were assured, had just begun to manifest itself in this town, by tumors, and a general swelling of all the parts of the body, and had already made considerable ravages. This did not hinder us from making a short stay in it. We found it a very considerable town, and principally composed of shops.

On Sunday the $\frac{21 \text{ May}}{1 \text{ June}}$ as we had a stage eighteen werstes long to accomplish, we left Kischnevo by five o'clock in the morning, and took a direction across hills and mountains, from whence we discovered the banks of the Dneister, which forms the new limit between Russia and Turkey. This country is in general very naked, and does not appear nearly so well cultivated as that through which we had previously travelled. About seven o'clock, after having reached the first of these mountains, we soon arrived at the village of Baschkany, situated between two hills. The civil and friendly reception of our hosts rendered our new quarters ex-

tremely agreeable to us. They offered us, with the frankest cordiality, a rustic breakfast, which we readily partook of. Towards the close of day we walked in the environs of the village. We found this valley filled with a great number of gardens and fruit-trees of every description. They pay great attention in this place to the rearing of bees, to judge by the quantity of hives we saw in our passage. In the evening we received a visit from the count of Besbarodko, major-general in the Russian service, and brother of the minister who was just arrived from Petersburg. His intention was to assist at the exchange which was to take place between the two ambassadors. We were struck with his resemblance to his brother, as well in his person as manners; and the advantageous opinion that several among us had had occasion to form of that brave officer, induced us to treat him with the utmost respect and attention.

On Monday we had very bad weather; but, with the exception of a few hills, tolerably even roads. We had scarcely reached a height in the environs of the first of

two villages through which we passed, that we perceived the Dneister, which in this place forms a great number of circuits, and flows in a plain of rather considerable extent. This discovery excited the highest gratification among the Russians, so great was their delight from the idea of soon again beholding their country. We proceeded on this day with so quick a pace, that at the end of an hour we had already reached Kriuleni, a village on the frontier of Moldavia. We encamped very near this place, at a short distance from the Dneister, on the banks of which was pitched the camp of the kihaia of the bacha of Bender. He was attended, as in the preceding year, by a great number of traders, whose shops formed a kind of little fair. The shore of the river was furnished with several pieces of cannon. On the opposite shore was encamped the regiment which escorted the Turkish ambassador. All the craft was already prepared for the passage at the moment when the exchange of the two envoys was to take place. Our ambassador, accompanied by the Moldavian hetman, and by a great number of

persons belonging to his suite, about noon came on horseback to the camp, in a costume of ceremony. In the evening he received, on the part of the Turks, a collation for fifty persons, as a mark of the hospitality enjoined by their laws. The next day he received a visit from the Armenian archbishop, Gregor Leopold. Soon after dinner the greatest part of the *oboses*, or conductors of the baggage-waggons, belonging to the two embassies, set out towards their respective frontiers.

Wednesday, $\frac{24}{4}$ May, June, was the day ultimately fixed on for the exchange of the two ambassadors, and consequently that of the *denouement* of this comedy. Our people were all up by break of day. Towards eleven o'clock, the bacha, who had been our faithful travelling companion as far as this place, and the kihaia of the bacha of Bender, with his first secretary, presented themselves at the tent of M. de Kotusow. Their arrival was announced by the sound of Turkish music. They were followed by a great number of persons on foot and horseback. After a short harangue, which was translated

to M. Kotusow by the interpreter, we put ourselves in marching order, and proceeded towards the shore, where our bacha waited for us in a magnificent tent, the entrance of which, decorated with high columns, perfectly resembled the façade of a church. The regiment which had accompanied the Turkish ambassador was under arms on the opposite shore of the Dneister, along the little mountain which borders this river. Count Besbarodko was waiting also for the Turkish envoy, who soon appeared with all his suite, advancing towards the tent which was erected on the shore. Immediately M. Pisani, secretary to our embassy, and myself, crossed the river in a very handsome sloop, to offer proper congratulations to the Turkish ambassador, and to invite him to execute the purposed exchange. When we had accomplished our errand, we repassed the Dneister to return to our own party. The two shores were covered with spectators, who had come from the neighbouring villages to witness this ceremony, which had been announced by several volleys of heavy artillery. The two ambassadors arrived at the same

moment in their respective sloops at the vessel which was in the middle of the river, and contained a small green building, in which the exchange was to take place. A new discharge of heavy and small artillery announced the event. Every person then went on board, and each party was conveyed to the shore of its destination. The joy experienced by the Russians, as they once more approached their native soil, was manifested in the most unequivocal manner, in mutual hilarity and congratulations.

As soon as we had finished the excellent breakfast which had been prepared for us by count Besbarodko, we took the road to Dubassar. The regiment which had accompanied the Turkish ambassador opened the march. It was near six o'clock in the evening when we arrived at our quarters. Nothing could equal the satisfaction I experienced in having at length the power of reposing in a good bed, after all the fatigues of the day, having been on my feet from four o'clock in the morning. We thus quitted the beautiful country of Moldavia, from whence we passed to the plain of Oc-

zakow. The two following days afforded nothing remarkable, or that merits being related.

On Saturday $\frac{26 \text{ May,}}{7 \text{ June,}}$ the ambassador and count Besberodko gave jointly a ball to the ladies of Dubassar. This little town has been every day gaining importance and extent, since it has been under the benevolent protection of Russia. Its environs are filled with gardens, and fields in the highest state of cultivation. A great number of houses are building on every side of it, which will soon considerably increase the town, and contribute to its embellishment. On the two following days several persons detached themselves from the embassy, to go on before, and reach Petersburg the sooner. We remained at Dubassar till Tuesday.

The next day, $\frac{31 \text{ May,}}{11 \text{ June,}}$ was the day at length fixed on for our departure. We proceeded in the same order as before. Each individual was obliged to provide himself with whatever he might want, and had permission to set off when he pleased. As we were attached to the civil department, we were obliged to wait for the ambassador's orders before we

could make any determinations. Our carriage being very heavily loaded, my companions and myself were allowed six horses to conduct us to Elizabeth-stadt, which was 330 werstes distant. As in the preceding year we had gone as far as Balta, by the plains of Oczakow, and had several times lost our way, we now resolved to take our direction through the Ukraine, and this was the fourth time we saw the Dneister. The roads we met with were very good, and in general tolerably even; and we should have had reason to be pleased with the journey, but for the cold, which on that day was very piercing. We observed on our left the little river Egorlic, which falls into the Dneister at a short distance from Dubassar. The two shores are covered with a great number of villages. It was near noon when we arrived at Okna, situated on the little river I have just spoken of, which flows between two chains of hills. This village belongs to general Stursa, of a distinguished Moldavian family; who, as well as many others, came to seek protection and an asylum on the Russian territory. The inhabitants of this village are also Moldavians. After dinner, we accomplished

the twenty werstes which remained for us to travel, and reached Birsowa by a road through beautiful plains, on the left of which appeared several small mountains. We were scarcely arrived in this place, where we were very comfortably domiciliated, than the ambassador passed through it in his way to Balta. Birsowa is situated in a very fertile valley between two small mountains, and crossed by the little river Egorlic, which was formerly the line of demarcation between Russia and Poland.

The next day we resumed our march by five o'clock in the morning. With the exception of the mountain we met with going out of this village, and some other small elevations, the road was in general tolerably even. After marching some hours, we reached the abode of a hermit, who had built himself a little cell partly under ground, at the entrance of the plains of Oczakow *. We very shortly after discovered, at the foot of the mountain, the town of Balta, situated in

* All the environs of Oczakow present absolutely nothing but a naked country, and the Russians call this kind of deserts, *steppes*.

a bottom, on the banks of a small river called the Kadim, and lined with villages and country houses. We revisited this little town with very great pleasure, and stayed to dine in it. We were told that general Suwarrow had stayed five days in it very recently, accompanied by eight regiments he commanded, with which he was proceeding to Poland, in order to quell the troubles which had broken out. Our ancient host, to whom we paid a visit, appeared delighted to see us again. His first question was to know if the peace would be durable. Having told him we were ignorant on the subject, our reply put him into so ill a humour, that we took leave of him without waiting for the result of the reflexions our answer appeared to suggest to him.

We had scarcely finished dinner before we again set out on our journey. The roads, though a little sandy, were pretty good. We left on our right a little chain of mountains, and passed through several villages, the neighbourhood of which contained nothing but well cultivated fields. We reached the village of Gross-Bobrick, forty werstes from Balta, about five o'clock in the evening. One

of the Poles, who form the greatest portion of the inhabitants of this town, offered us a clean convenient apartment, with windows having large squares of glass, (a very singular circumstance in this canton) under whose roof we passed the night.

The next day, after thanking our host for the excellent accommodation he had bestowed upon us, we quitted this town about five o'clock in the morning. At liberty to choose between two roads which now presented themselves, one of which turned round the mountain and was very sandy, we preferred, as the shortest, that which crossed it more directly. After two hours' march, we arrived at its summit, from whence we discovered Krivon-Osero, within two stages of Olviopol, and situated in a plain at the foot of a mountain. Following this road, we arrived about noon at Kumirowa, thirty-six werstes distant from Gross-Bobrik. The civility with which the inhabitants received us induced us to stay with them a couple of hours. Our conductors, who had previously acted in that capacity to the Turkish ambassador, and had not received an obole

for their trouble, through a knavery of which the ambassador no doubt was entirely ignorant, testified a great deal more satisfaction in our service, and seemed sensible of the care we took to divide with them the little we possessed. After having paid them generously, we caused them to be supplied with sufficient food to subsist them on their way back. The twenty-five werstes we had still to travel before reaching Olviopol were completed in the afternoon. We continued our course along plains, and reached the banks of the Bog, which we crossed in the environs of this town, where we passed the night.

The next day we found the roads better and less sandy. When we had proceeded twenty werstes, we stopped some hours at Lissa-Gora (the foxes' mountain) to give our horses time for resting. This place, situated on an eminence, is considerable and well built. In the course of the afternoon we accomplished the thirty remaining werstes, and, after having crossed several hills, we at length reached Petschannoi-Brod, situated on the little river Doschlik, lined on

both sides with its rocky shore. We here passed the night, in a small house belonging to a Walachian.

We quitted this village the next day very early in the morning, to proceed towards Skinta, situated at the distance of forty werstes. We dined in this village. As we were no longer very far from Elizabeth-stadt, we soon discovered its fortress, and even the town itself, which we reached about five o'clock in the evening. The ambassador had received the most positive orders not to lodge again in the fort, but in the town, like the rest of the retinue; whilst the great object of the mission with which he was charged being now accomplished, the precautions and measures for his safety which had been taken while he was proceeding became useless when he was on his return. This place pleased us even more than the first time we passed through it. I paid a visit to the major of Cossacks, in whose house I had then been lodged; but I was told he was at Cherson. The embassy here divided, and the individuals which had composed it were at liberty to proceed to Petersburg

either together or separately, as they thought fit.

The next day I enjoyed the pleasure of seeing several of my friends who were returned from the Crimea. They gave us the most pleasing accounts of this charming peninsula, and of all the delightful sites it contains. Amongst other things, they spoke with the greatest pleasure of Sudack and Batchiserai, as well as of the Jew's Fort. These places indeed, in my opinion, present a finer view, and a site more pleasing and picturesque than any in the Crimea.

On Friday the $\frac{9}{10}$th June, at ten o'clock at night, I and my companions had the good fortune to procure horses, which we had before vainly sought for, during the whole journey. We took advantage of the freshness of the evening, and a beautiful moonlight, to quit Elizabeth-stadt. It was not without a sort of chagrin that I learned, after our departure, that the Turkish ambassador, after quitting Kriuleni, had been deprived of the three tails he bore as a mark of distinction, and thrown into confinement by the bacha of Bender. We had in general

even roads, and remarked with pleasure, that all the country which passed under our view was very carefully cultivated.

At sun-setting we perceived Adschamka, twenty werstes from Elizabeth-stadt. It is rather a considerable village, and surrounded with trees and little woods, which render its situation very agreeable. From hence we proceeded towards Petrikowka, twenty-six werstes further, and reached it about midnight.

The next day, about four o'clock in the morning, we gained the little town of Alexandria, situated at twenty werstes from the last stage, and dispersed on the banks of a small lake. Our road was alternately intersected by plains and hills. We observed that the cultivation of the lands was less attended to than that of the cantons through which we had lately passed; however, as we approached nearer to our post, we remarked a great number of fields sown with grain, and of beautiful meadows.

The next day, about eight o'clock in the morning, we gained Scritena, distant twenty-seven werstes from the last stage. This place

is composed of a few houses, and is situated at twenty werstes from Kremetschuck, which we perceived in a sandy plain on the banks of the Dnieper. The two shores of this river are covered with houses and villages. The rest of the road is in general choked with sand. After having passed through the village of Gruchow, situated on the further shore of the Dnieper, we crossed the river by a drawbridge, which in this spot is very large and rapid. We had no sooner passed it, than we found ourselves in the town of Kremetschuck. Its streets are pretty large, and form a declivity towards the banks of the Dnieper. The greatest part of the houses are constructed of wood, and are only one story high. This town is the seat of the civil government of the government of New Russia, and contains about four thousand souls. It has acquired a certain degree of consideration in relation to the other towns in this part of the country, only since the new establishment of Cherson, which is at two hundred and three werstes distance from it. It is the point where the two roads which lead to Cherson fall into each other, as the two roads from Kiow and Pul-

towa unite in the Crimea. Kremetschuck is the depository of almost all the merchandise which comes down the Dnieper to go to Cherson, on account of the cataracts which interrupt the navigation between these two towns. A rich merchant of this place has blown up, at a great expense, several rocks, and has succeeded in enlarging the passage so as to accommodate a small barge; but it is difficult to destroy them all, and to render this passage easy, notwithstanding the advantage which would be derived from it to the Ukraine and to Cherson.

Kremetschuck is an infinitely handsomer and more regular built town than Elizabethstadt. It contains a great number of shops, ranged in files, and the houses square, which produces a very pleasing effect. Not being able to procure any post-horses, we were obliged to defer our departure till the following day. We employed this interval in visiting and examining the interior parts of the town. The public walk, along a lake situated at one of the extremities of the town, appeared to us of considerable extent. Its banks are planted with trees, which form

long alleys and shady retreats, agreeably distributed. It was not without admiration we observed with what address so charming and delightful a walk, in a marshy and sandy part of the country, had been produced by art.

Having been obliged to pass the night in this town, we thought we could do nothing better the next morning than to pay a visit to the grodnitz, or judge. As the state of our slender finances obliged us to think of departing, we conjured him not to detain us longer. After a conversation rather serious and dry with this grodnitz, we were at length fortunate enough to succeed in obtaining horses. They belonged to some Russian merchants, who invented all sorts of means to extort money from us, which is a very common practice among these merchants, who are in general very cunning and subtile. The demand which we made upon them to convey us was considered by them as a kind of tax, with which they had no inclination to burden themselves: but when we mentioned our intention to pay them, the proposition softened their ill-

humour. We left Kremetschuck on Sunday $\frac{11}{22}$ June, about nine o'clock in the morning. We met at first with very sandy roads, but after proceeding several leagues they became better. On the right before us was a large delightful valley, interspersed with woods and a great number of villages. After having proceeded for some time between two hills, we perceived, in descending, Omelnik, a town of Little Russia, situated on the Psol, at twenty werstes from Kremetschuck. We remained at the post-house which is near the church, no longer than was necessary for changing horses.

After having travelled nearly eight werstes on a rising ground, we gained two mountains, at the foot of which is a village, situated on the borders of a lake through which runs a causeway, forming the continuation of the road. On each side appears a steep hill washed by the lake. The church, which is situated on an eminence, forms a very agreeable point of view.

Continuing this road, we arrived at the village of Manschilea, situated on an eminence, where we staid a couple of hours to

dine. Towards six o'clock we resumed our march, in order to reach the nearest stage, which was at the distance of twenty-seven werstes. After having travelled nearly fourteen werstes, the road began to become mountainous. It was almost an hour longer before we gained the village of Fidorowka, the pleasant situation of which made us regret that we had not arrived early enough to enjoy it. This place is surrounded by a chain of mountains, and, like most other villages of this canton, is situated near a large lake, which is crossed by a causeway and bridges. The trees planted on the banks of this causeway render it a very agreeable avenue. The road, after winding round the lake, continues as far as the foot of the mountain. As our horses were very much fatigued, we did not arrive at Astapie till eleven o'clock in the evening.

We quitted that post two hours after. We were so overcome with fatigue, that, notwithstanding the jolting of the carriages, we fell fast asleep. We continued to meet with roads of nearly the same description. The villages through which we passed are situated in pleasant valleys, on the banks of

lakes, which in this country seem to supply the place of rivers. About six o'clock in the morning we arrived at Bogatschka, a large and pretty village, where we changed horses. The whole of this canton, very highly cultivated, forms a part of Little Russia. The majority of the inhabitants speak the same language, and wear the same dress as the Russians. After having proceeded eleven werstes, we reached our first post at Ustiwitza, where we staid to dine. We had still twenty-two werstes further to reach the village Sorotschina. The excellence of our horses gave us an opportunity of performing this stage in an hour and a half, though the roads were very difficult, being here and there choked with a quantity of sand. This place is situated in a plain. It has three large churches, one of which, built of stone, is surrounded with woods and large trees, forming a shady retirement, the approach to which inspires a sort of religious respect. We could not quit this village till three o'clock, on account of the irregularity which prevails at the post houses; as the inhabitants of the villages are obliged to furnish travellers with

horses, a very considerable time elapses before they can be procured. This canton in general exhibits cultivated lands, and a great number of woods.

The village of Rascheweka, twenty-two werstes further on, and in which is the next post-house, is, like the preceding ones, situated on an eminence bordered with delightful valleys. Before us were two large churches, which, like all the others in this part of the country, are constructed in a Gothic style, and flanked with many towers. We were detained at the post-house almost two hours. I took advantage of this delay for allaying my thirst with some glasses of beer, which, in its excellent quality, greatly resembles that made in Germany. I also ate a few mouthfuls of a black-looking bread, which, notwithstanding its colour, was rather agreeable. About seven o'clock in the evening we left this place, and proceeded along a tolerably good road, intersected by hills, and bordered on each side by valleys, in which appear a great number of woods and villages. I more than once sighed for my excursions on foot; but we now travelled so quick

that I was under the necessity of renouncing this inclination. Meanwhile, the numberless beauties which nature seems to have taken a pleasure in collecting in this charming country are infinitely worthy of a closer examination. At the extremity of a village we suddenly found ourselves surrounded by a great number of small mountains, which we were obliged to pass. It was ten o'clock in the evening when we arrived at the post-house of Heidischef, after having accomplished our eighteen werstes. As the proper officer for forwarding our journey was gone to bed, we were detained in this place till after midnight.

About four o'clock the next morning we reached Podolke, a village situated in a plain twenty werstes from the last stage. After having continued our march during five hours, and crossed several mountains commanding a valley which we left to the right, we arrived at the small town of Mischirtsch, situated at the foot of one of these mountains, thirty-two werstes further than the stage we last quitted. We observed here a small church built of stone, and situated on an eminence

commanding an entire view of this town, which we quitted at ten o'clock in the morning. The banks of the lake, which is at some distance from thence, are covered with houses and woods.

After continuing our march through a very sandy country, interspersed with woods, mountains, and extremities of plains, we perceived the town of Lebedin, in the government of Charkow or Slobod. We left it to our right, and having passed the village of Worodin, we discovered the little town of Summi, in the province of the same name, which contains three large churches built of freestone. We soon gained the post-house, where we again experienced the inconvenience of not being able to procure horses. The town of Summi, situated between two hills on the banks of a lake, is tolerably extensive, and contains several handsome edifices; and if the inhabitants continue to erect houses with the same activity which we witnessed in our passage through it, it is probable that in ten or twelve years this place will become of much consideration. It was near six o'clock in the evening when we left it.

The horses we had procured were so bad and so exhausted, that we did not arrive till one o'clock in the morning at the post-house at Pisserowka. Fortunately we did not here wait so long a time for our relays as at that we last quitted. On the road, which is in general even, we observed another considerable village, and a little further, thirty-five werstes from the post-house, Surscha, the church of which had long been in view. This little town is about one league in length, and is a continuation of villages, which seem to make a part of it. The activity of a great number of blacksmiths we observed as we passed, and the air of good humour which prevailed among them, afforded us the highest pleasure.

We proceeded towards the post-house, twenty-five werstes further. After having gone along many woods, and crossed the bridge of a considerable lake, we arrived about nine o'clock at the village of Saldatka. At the post-house we met with an old Russian, as respectable from his age as his long beard, who conversed a good deal with us on the subject of Russia, the

Seven Years' war, and the different campaigns he had made. The quantity of little bells attached to the horses of our carriage, to supply the place of post-horns, as is customary among the Russian postillions, had already announced our arrival, when we were at a great distance from the village, and consequently afforded an opportunity for their having horses in readiness for us. By this means we employed a very short time in changing horses, and our conversation with the old man could not extend to any other subject. The little information he gave us, in regard to the town of Surcha, furnished us, however, with an idea of the easy circumstances of the majority of the inhabitants.

After quitting this town, we soon discovered the village of Kastamania, situated twenty-two werstes further, and on the banks of a lake at the foot of a mountain. We went through a pretty large plain, where we observed several small villages. After leaving the post-house, which was situated in that called Diakonowa, twenty-three werstes further, we encountered very deep sands in diffi-

rent parts of the road, which was bordered on each side with extensive woods. We met also with several groupes of Russian women, who informed us they were going to Kursk, on a pilgrimage to a chapel dedicated to the Virgin, and which was very much frequented during the time of the fair. After travelling about ten werstes, we perceived in the distance the steeples of this town, which however now and then disappeared from our view. At a short distance from hence we passed by a drawbridge, over the small river of Kursk, from which the town has derived its name. Our conductors, wishing to avoid the deep sands which so frequently occurred in the high road, made a small circuit to gain a mountain, for the most part composed of calcareous stones. We had scarcely reached its summit before we again perceived Kursk and its churches. A part of this town is situated at the foot of the mountain I have just mentioned, and the rest on an eminence, which forms an extensive plain, and is washed by the little river Tusker, which empties itself into the Kursk. The streets are long and broad,

and contain several handsome edifices, the number of which cannot fail of increasing, to judge by the quantity of new buildings already begun on all sides. The shops are absolutely similar to those of the merchants of Petersburg. They are long buildings of freestone, and occasioned us much more satisfaction than those we had seen of the same kind at Kremetschuck. The edifice the most remarkable for its beauty is situated on an eminence, and is the official seat of government, and the residence of the governor. We perceived on the shore of the Tusker, which flows close to this place, the village of Stralitzka, which in some measure is nothing more than one of the suburbs of the town. We passed the night in the house of a person of our acquaintance. As we had travelled on this day near 150 werstes, and were extremely fatigued, we did not require much invitation to accept the excellent accommodations that were offered us, and to taste the sweets of a repose we were so much in want of.

The repairs we were obliged to make to our carriage were not completed till the next

evening, so that we could not leave this town till about eight o'clock. A large and spacious square, situated near one of the town-gates, was filled with the waggons of the peasants, who were come to the fair which is every year held in this place. The chapel dedicated to the Virgin, which at this time is open to the devotion of the people, attracts a great concourse of pilgrims who come to it from all the villages round.

Our Russian postillion was no sooner on the road than he began to sing many pleasant and cheerful songs he had bought at the fair. This confirmed the opinion we before entertained, that a Russian never loses his gaiety under any misfortune whatever; and that in this point they resemble the French, who have sufficient philosophy to be sensible that only weak minds are addicted to despair on occasions of calamity.

Not having been able to procure any horses at the post-house, we engaged our guide to conduct us as far as Kurassowo, twenty-two werstes from Kursk, where we slept. We regretted the more not having passed through Charkow, Belgorod, and Pul-

town, as that direction would not have occasioned us any additional length of way, the contrary of which we had been assured of. We thus lost an opportunity of seeing three very pleasant and agreeably situated towns.

It was near eight o'clock in the morning when we arrived the next day at Otscha. The whole way from Kursk to Orel is in general very even, with the exception, however, of a few hills. We observed on our passage a great number of villages and woods, and about three o'clock in the afternoon at length discovered Orel, and the house of the governor, which is placed on an eminence. This town is situated in a fertile plain, at the conflux of the two rivers Opa and Orlitzka. It is the depository of the corn which comes from the Ukraine, to be afterwards transported to Petersburg by land or by water. Orel is a town of some consideration, and very regularly built. Its situation, however, did not afford us so much pleasure as that of Kursk. We left it about six o'clock in the evening, and proceeded by a very hilly road and a thick wood.

It was near nine o'clock when we arrived at the post-house in the village Ob-

dutcha, on the banks of a river of the same name, which we passed by a ford. We again set out about eleven o'clock, and the next morning, on awaking, were not a little surprised at discovering, thirty-five werstes from thence, the town of Mzinsk, situated on several heights, at the foot of which runs the Fuscha, that we crossed by a wooden bridge, to enter the town, which we found no less pleasing than Kursk and Orel, notwithstanding the short time we could command to examine it. The country we travelled over to reach this town, though a little hilly, and very woody, presents different points of view equally agreeable and picturesque.

After going through Great and Little Surotowo, two villages situated along the high road, and the houses of which are bordered with avenues, we, towards the evening, reached Plawa, situated on an eminence, and on a river of the same name. This place, as well as the greatest part of the villages of Russia, is rather considerable. The church, which is remarkable for its beauty, as well as many of the houses, is situated on a hill at the extremity of a wood, which not a little contributes to the charm of its situa-

tion. We passed the Plawa on a wooden bridge, constructed with equal skill and solidity.

The next day we crossed several hills over very sandy roads. About seven o'clock we discovered the town of Tula, but were prevented by bad weather from being able well to distinguish its situation. My travelling companion, who was too well acquainted with the country to be as desirous as myself to explore all the interesting objects it might contain, manifested a desire to go to Moscow to visit his family and friends. As I had already had an opportunity, during my first residence in Tula, of seeing the manufactories of arms which are established there, we now contented ourselves with simply passing through it. The entrance to it is by two gates, one of which was constructed by the merchants, and the other by the manufacturers. The town is situated on an eminence, and washed by the Upa, over which is a very handsome bridge. In order to guard this country from the incursions of the Little Tartars, the Russians had formerly erected a fortified line, which ended near

Simbirsk on the Volga; but more recently other fortifications have been constructed, which render the old entrenchments absolutely useless.

After crossing a great number of hills, which uninterruptedly succeeded each other, and five considerable villages, we, about two o'clock, reached Woschani, situated on the river of the same name. Our want of horses obliged us to hire some for the two remaining stages. In this canton we observed a number of woods and villages. After having quitted, towards midnight, the little town of Serpuchow, known by its manufactories for sail-cloth, soap, and silk, we the next day reached the post-house of Lopasnia, where we were obliged to stay a couple of hours to have the wheels of our carriage repaired. The villages of the environs belong, for the most part, to Russian noblemen, whose harsh, and frequently tyrannical, conduct towards their vassals cannot fail of exciting the sensibility of every mind which for a moment pauses on the oppressions they exercise towards these unfortunate beings. We arrived about noon at

the village of Podolsk, the last stage before reaching Moscow. The charming situation of this place on several heights, at the foot of which runs the Pokra, caused us very great pleasure. We passed this river by a handsome bridge, and proceeded towards Moscow, from which we were now only thirty-two werstes distance. We perceived this great city situated at the conflux of the Jausa and the Moskwa, the shores of which consist principally of cultivated lands, delightful meadows, and woods. We had a very bad road during the whole of this day's journey, and it was near seven o'clock in the evening when we entered the town. Our guide being ignorant what road he was to take to arrive at the post-house, we were more than half an hour in finding the inn we intended to stop at. We passed the following day in our bed-rooms, in order to recover from the fatigue of the journey.

On Wednesday, $\frac{21}{2}$ June, July, towards noon, I paid a visit to Mr. Gogel, counsellor of state, and director of the great hospital for orphans. He received me with equal politeness and friendship, which made me some amends for

having passed the preceding day in a chamber, or rather in a sort of gloomy prison, though our host assured us that it was the best his house contained, and appropriated to guests of distinction.

The next day I walked in the public garden which is behind the imperial palace, situated three werstes from the town, and from the place of our abode. This garden is infinitely finer, larger, and more varied than that of Petersburg. It has a great number of good walks, arbours, basons, islands, and buildings constructed in the form of temples. The view of these different objects afforded me a most delightful evening, and I regretted that the time devoted to examining them passed with so much rapidity.

On Sunday I passed through the Swiataia Worota (the holy gate), to go to the central part of the town called *Kreml*, or the fortress. Some years ago it was in contemplation to build a palace in this quarter for the czars, but the project was not put in execution. This Kreml is situated, as I have just mentioned, in the centre of the town on an eminence, and surrounded by walls and

towers washed by the Moskwa. The cathedral is remarkable for the treasures and patriarchal robes which are preserved in it, and which I much regretted not having seen. I was, however, made some amends by the charming *coup-d'œil* I enjoyed from the Iwan-Weliki, one of the highest steeples in Moscow, and which commands the whole town and its environs. It contains a bell which weighs twelve thousand and sixty pouds *, or near four hundred thousand weight. Having fallen down to the ground during an earthquake, every endeavour to raise it has hitherto been ineffectual. The ancient palace of the czars still exists, but in a state of ruins. I went at noon to the Lutheran church, where I heard a fine discourse from the minister Bruner. After this, I dined with Mr. Schaden, counsellor of state, and a native of Wirtemberg. In the evening we walked in the public gardens, near which is the imperial palace intended for the residence of the empress. It

* The poud is a weight in use in the Russian empire, and contains about thirty-two pounds avoirdupois weight.

progress has been suspended by the war, as well as that of the marble church begun at Petersburg. Notwithstanding the enormous sums expended for this last edifice, it is not finished, but, on the contrary, is falling from day to day into ruins. A very celebrated Italian is the architect of this undertaking.

On Monday, in the evening, we quitted Moscow, and took the great road to Twers. The sky was so charged with clouds, that we were prematurely overtaken by complete obscurity.

We arrived on Tuesday, at two o'clock in the morning, at Tschernoi-Grias, twenty-eight werstes from Moscow, and again left it soon after sun-rising. The road, all the way to Petersburg, is in general very fine, and crosses a quantity of woods. It was near eight o'clock in the morning when we arrived at the little village of Petschki, the second stage, and twenty-three werstes from Moscow. My companion wishing to pay a visit to a person of his acquaintance residing at Baldino, twenty werstes distant, it appeared to me that I ought not to refuse a proposal that was as agreeable to me as to

himself. This village, situated on an eminence, is an estate belonging to the family of Tatischtew. It is impossible to imagine any thing more beautiful than this spot. It consists of an infinity of clumps of trees adorning the banks of a large bason of water, of the handsomest avenues and most magnificent gardens, in which are a number of pavilions with windows of Bohemian glass, to say nothing of the rare and curious objects which have been collected by the proprietor, and which supply what may have been neglected by nature in the embellishment of the scene. A smaller degree of perfection would have been sufficient to induce us to accept with pleasure and gratitude the invitation given us by my companion's friend, to pass a day in this charming retreat. The whole afternoon was employed in examining its different parts, and enjoying the beauties of the various and enchanting spectacles wich at every step presented themselves to our view.

On Wednesday, $\frac{28}{9}$ June, July, we quitted this place in the morning, and gained a hill which conducted us near a seat belonging to the

house of Orlow, situated a small distance from the high road. We very soon after arrived at the little town of Klin. When we had reached half way to Sawidowo, we passed the river Soscha, which separates the government of Moscow from that of Twer. The road which formerly was, in general, much neglected and very bad, we now found in pretty good condition, as well as the different bridges over which we passed.

After proceeding for some time through deep sands, we arrived about six o'clock in the evening at Gorodnia, where we were obliged to stay two hours for want of horses. This place contains a very handsome church built of stone, on an eminence which commands the Volga. It was near midnight when we arrived at Twer, situated on the Twerza, one of the handsomest towns to be met with on the road from Moscow to Petersburg. Having been a prey to the flames in 1785, Catharine the Second ordered those parts of it that had been burnt to be rebuilt of bricks, and gave fifty thousand roubles for this purpose. This ancient residence of several great dukes and princes

is arrived to such a degree of prosperity, that it may be fairly considered as one of the finest and most regular built towns in Europe. It enjoys from its situation a facility of communication which contributes to its being supplied at a low price with the productions of the country round it. The travellers who visit Twer never fail to ask for sturgeon, which is caught in the Volga and kept in reservoirs.

We stopped at Madnee, thirty werstes further on, only long enough to breakfast, and then proceeded towards the town of Torschok, thirty-three werstes beyond it. Commerce has lately considerably increased in this town. The augmentation of that carried on in the Baltic, with the dearness of the productions of the country, occasioned by their exportation, and the supplies sent daily to Petersburg, appear to have given new life and activity to the whole of this canton. All this is only disadvantageous to great towns, where the high price of the necessaries of life, which come from the interior of the country, or from foreign states, becomes still higher every day, and is by no means

proportioned to the resources of persons having but a certain revenue to subsist on.

It was near noon when we arrived in this town. As we went along, we several times discovered the Twerza, which winds through the whole of this canton. We travelled continually among sands, with the exception of certain places which had not the least trace of them. The greatest part of the woods we met with on each side of Moscow are nothing more than small copses. We attributed this to the quantity of villages in the environs, and the great consumption of these woods for the roads, which are principally formed of beams and thick planks placed side by side.

Before reaching the first stage, distant thirty-eight werstes, we went through several small villages, where we remarked, with great pleasure, the comfortable situation of the peasants. The greatest part of these villages belong to the crown, which treats its vassals with more kindness and consideration than is the case with the Russian nobility. It consequently happens, that they enjoy a

real advantage from this circumstance; and this is instantly sensible to observers, by the appearance of their houses, which are extremely clean and comfortable.

The next day, about six in the evening, we reached the village of Widropusk, situated on two eminences which command the Twerza. Three hours after, we met with the little town of Wischnei Wolotzchok, and went through a very large street in it, lined on each side with houses built with wood, as are all those of the neighbouring villages. We next entered a large square, the houses of which were of free-stone. This little town is also situated on the Twerza, which in this spot is continually covered with trading vessels. This place, which has been raised into a provincial town, is become very important to Petersburg, on account of the facility of its communication by water. It is here that, in the reign of Peter the Great, a merchant of the name of Serdukow opened a junction between the Twerza and the Msta, by the construction of a canal and two sluices, three wersts long. This canal is the more advantageous, as it has effected a navigation from

the Baltic to the Caspian Sea. The commerce also of this town, as well as the wealth of the inhabitants, is considerably increased. Population is become very considerable in it for the last twenty years, and the greatest part of its houses are very well built.

Leaving this town, we pursued our way along the shores of the Twerza, which we afterwards crossed by two very handsome stone bridges. The road is in general very fine, with the exception of some sandy spots, and a great quantity of woods, with which it is choked on all sides.

On Friday we reached Edrowo, a pretty considerable village, situated in a country formed of plains, and affording different and agreeable picturesque points of view. A traveller whose eyes have been fatigued by an almost perpetual monotony and uniformity, directs them with great pleasure to a scene entirely different, consisting of a great number of lakes and hills, which here on all sides present themselves to his view. It was noon when we arrived at Waldaia, at the entrance of which is the post-house. This small town contains several handsome houses built of

free-stone, and is situated on the side of a lake, in which are several islands, one of which contains the convent of Iverskoi, founded in 1653 by Nifone, the patriarch of Constantinople. All these particularities render the country, as far as Petersburg, extremely delightful and charming. The road, however, is not very easy, being paved all the way, and consisting of an uninterrupted succession of steep hills, as far as Jaschélzi where we arrived about three o'clock, which greatly fatigue the traveller. This village, which is rather considerable, is twenty-three wersts from Waldaia, the chief town of a province which was peopled by the Czar Alexis Michailowitsch, with Polish and Finland prisoners, which is the cause that the inhabitants have a particular accent that explains their origin. From hence to Krestzi, which we did not reach till about nine o'clock in the evening, we met with very sandy and fatiguing roads.

On Saturday the $\frac{1}{14}$ July we were surprised on awaking about four o'clock in the morning, to find ourselves on the road to Brounitza, a tolerably extensive village, and remarkable for being the place where the

Swedes obtained a victory over the Russians in 1714. We found the roads a little better before we reached the next post-house, where we arrived about ten o'clock.

In the environs of Brounitza we passed the Msta by a bridge of boats. This canton exhibits nothing but a continuation of plains and flat country, which extends to a considerable distance.

Towards noon we reached Nowogorod on the Wolchow, in the spot where this river rises out of the lake Ilmen. The town is very ancient; and it is even pretended that it existed before the arrival of the Sclavi in Russia. Nothing remains of its ancient splendour but its old walls, and a vast inclosure, defended by deep moats, and containing tilled lands and fields. It is the see of an archbishop, who bears the name of *prototrone*, and is the ordinary mart of the merchandize which comes from the Levant, and from the west. A considerable commerce of leather is carried on in it. We went through the town without sleeping, in order to reach the Kreml, and proceed on our road. We here found the roads in excellent repair, and for the

most part paved with very pointed stones, which occasioned us at least as much jolting as the beams we have before spoken of. The post-horse business is generally conducted by young boys, from ten to eleven years old, who manage the horses with admirable skill; and though they have often six horses abreast to conduct, they so perfectly understand their occupation, that no accident ever happens.

At two o'clock in the afternoon we arrived at Podberosa, a village belonging to the archbishop of Nowogorod, and from thence proceeded to Tosna. The difficulty of procuring horses obliged us to address ourselves to a common carrier, with whom we agreed for conducting us to Petersburg, where we at length arrived on the $\frac{2}{11}$ July towards the close of day, after a long journey, which we were delighted in having brought to so fortunate a conclusion.

THE END.

S. HAMILTON, PRINTER,
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